SUPER BBC

愛とは夜に気付くもの

よしながふみ

I'm Aware of Love at Night

Yoshinaga Fumi

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Antoine
An aristocrat from a French noble family. Armed with not unsatisfactory lineage and beauty with his display of selfishness he uses Claude.

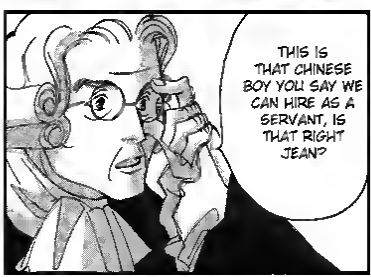
Claude
Antoine's capable steward. The only one who can handle his (Antoine's) selfishness. He has been in service to the family served since the previous generation.

※このシリーズの最初のお話し「執事の分際」は
SBBC「本当に、やさしい。」に収録されています。

小姓の分際

THAT WAS ABOUT THE TIME I WAS PROSTI-TUTING MYSELF

OH, MY GOD...!
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
THIRTEEN
I STARTED THIS JOB TWO YEARS AGO, AFTER MY PARENTS DIED
I HAVE CHINESE BLOOD IN ME BUT I'M A FRENCH-MAN.

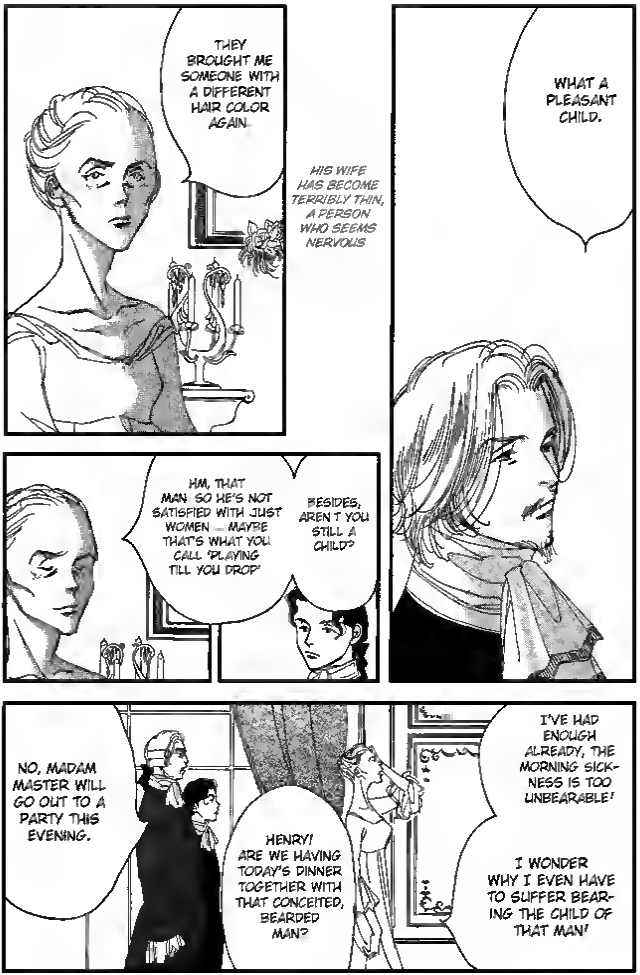


AFTER HE CAME IN MY MOUTH, THAT MAN PUT ME IN A COACH AND TOOK ME TO A NOBLE'S MANSION.

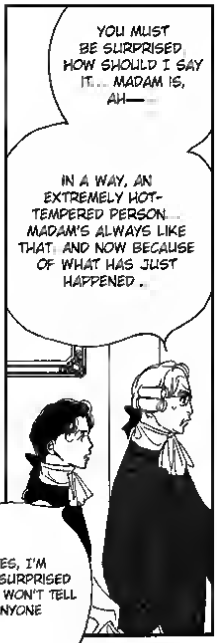
PLEASE JUST TAKE A LOOK AT HIM, LOOK AT HIS APPEARANCE!
BUT DON'T YOU THINK HE'S TOO YOUNG?
YES MR HENRY THE SERVANT THIS TIME IS YOUNG AS WELL AS GOOD-LOOKING. IT'S ALSO WHAT MASTER ASKED FOR, IS IT NOT?

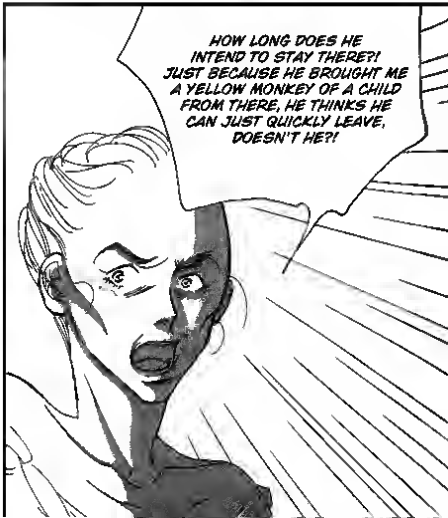
SO, HENRY. THIS IS THAT NEW SERVANT YOU MENTIONED?
HM...
Oh! Boy
MY NAME IS CLAUDE GILBERT, MASTER.
PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE
WELL, GREET THE MASTER.
THAT IS CORRECT, MASTER
YOUR NAME?

I SEE
VERY WELL...
HENRY, TEACH THIS CHILD HOW TO READ AND WRITE
I DO
DO YOU WANT TO BE ABLE TO?
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO READ AND WRITE?
I DO NOT
AND OF COURSE IT WILL BE IN ADDITION TO HIS DUTIES AS A SERVANT...
HE? YES, CERTAINLY
I CAN DO IT
CAN YOU DO IT? CLAUDE, IT WON'T BE EASY, YOU KNOW, CLAUDE

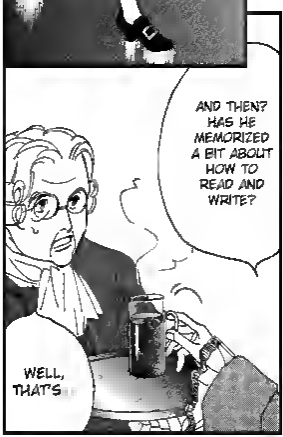

THEY BROUGHT ME SOMEONE WITH A DIFFERENT HAIR COLOR AGAIN.
HIS WIFE HAS BECOME TERRIBLY THIN, A PERSON WHO SEEMS NERVOUS
WHAT A PLEASANT CHILD.
HM, THAT MAN SO HE'S NOT SATISFIED WITH JUST WOMEN — MAYBE THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL 'PLAYING TILL YOU DROP'
BESIDES, AREN'T YOU STILL A CHILD?
NO, MADAM MASTER WILL GO OUT TO A PARTY THIS EVENING.
HENRY! ARE WE HAVING TODAY'S DINNER TOGETHER WITH THAT CONCEITED, BEARDED MAN?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH ALREADY, THE MORNING SICKNESS IS TOO UNBEARABLE!
I WONDER WHY I EVEN HAVE TO SUFFER BEARING THE CHILD OF THAT MAN!

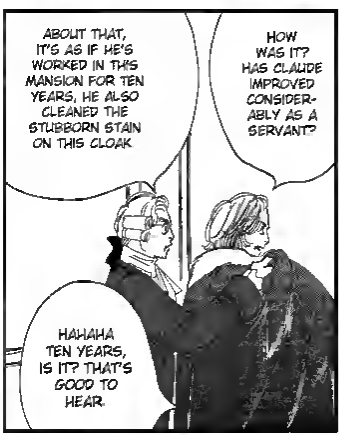
AGAIN...
HE'S GONE AGAIN, HASN'T HE?
I SEE


YOU MUST BE SURPRISED HOW SHOULD I SAY IT... MADAM IS, AH—...
IN A WAY, AN EXTREMELY HOT-TEMPERED PERSON... MADAM'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT. AND NOW BECAUSE OF WHAT HAS JUST HAPPENED..
YES, I'M NOT SURPRISED BUT I WON'T TELL ANYONE

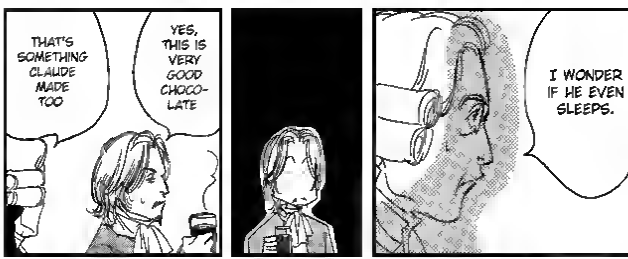

HOW LONG DOES HE INTEND TO STAY THERE?! JUST BECAUSE HE BROUGHT ME A YELLOW MONKEY OF A CHILD FROM THERE, HE THINKS HE CAN JUST QUICKLY LEAVE, DOESN'T HE?!

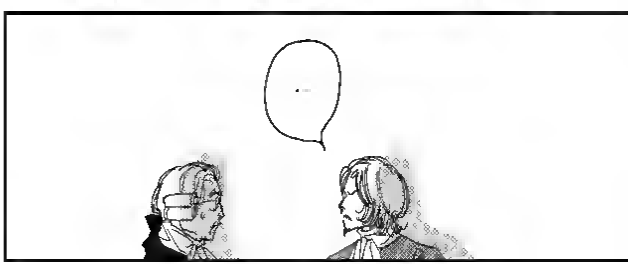
HM...
MAYBE THIS MEANS I WAS RIGHT TO EMPLOY YOU.


AND THEN? HAS HE MEMORIZED A BIT ABOUT HOW TO READ AND WRITE?
WELL, THAT'S


ABOUT THAT, IT'S AS IF HE'S WORKED IN THIS MANSION FOR TEN YEARS, HE ALSO CLEANED THE STUBBORN STAIN ON THIS CLOAK
HOW WAS IT? HAS CLAUDE IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY AS A SERVANT?
HAHAHA TEN YEARS, IS IT? THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.

NO, THE BOOKS THAT THAT CHILD IS READING NOW ARE DEFINITELY ALREADY TOO DIFFICULT FOR ME.
WHAT? SINCE HE SAID HE CAN DO IT NO MATTER HOW MUCH WORK THERE IS YOU MUST NOT BE LENIENT, YOU KNOW.

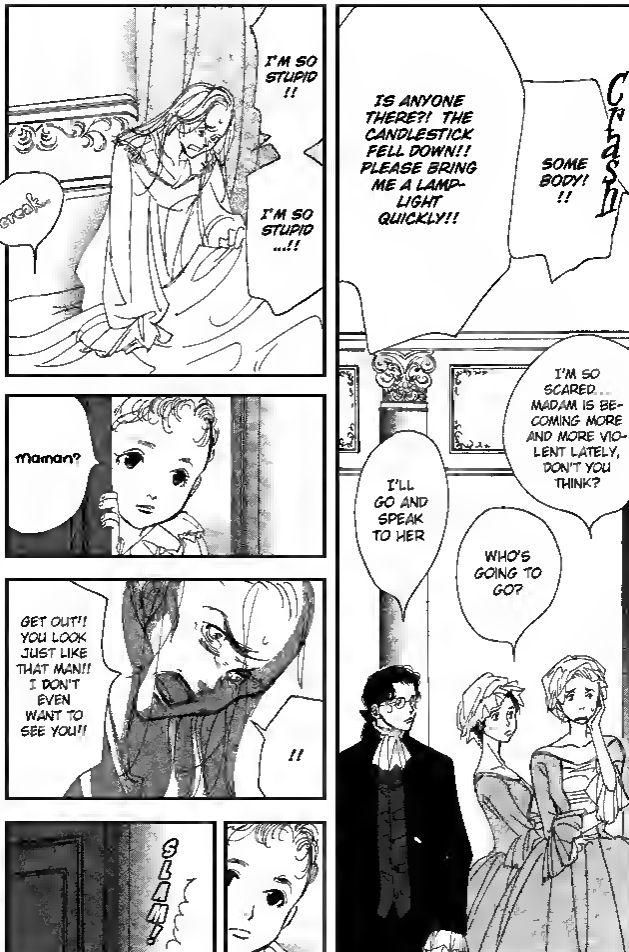


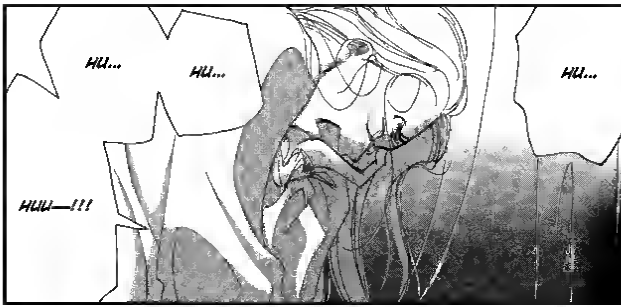


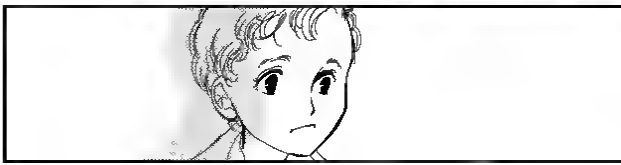
AFTER THAT A SHORT TIME PASSED, AND AT THE MANSION THE ELDEST SON WAS BORN. THE ONE WHO NAMED HIM "ANTOINE" WAS MASTER

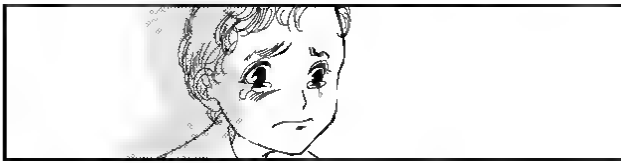
LO—OK ANTOINE, SO HIGH, SO HI—GH !
キャー
HMM?!
HM....
MASTER...
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, BE A GOOD BOY AND GO TO SLEEP FATHER IS GOING OUT NOW
Pa— pa—
FOR TWO MONTHS YOU'VE CONTINUOUSLY SPENT THE NIGHT AWAY FROM HOME. IF YOU COULD OCCASIONALLY SLEEP IN THE MANSION
MASTER
I WAS WONDERING WHO IT WAS, CLAUDE, THOSE GLASSES!
HAHAHA!

IF I COULD, I'D RATHER NOT SEE MY WIFE'S FACE
HM-HMM, THE FACT THAT I'M SICK AND UNABLE TO MOVE IS A GOOD REASON FOR HIM TO HAVE AS MANY LOVE AFFAIRS AS HE LIKES
I'VE BEEN SUCH A FOOL!!
BANG!

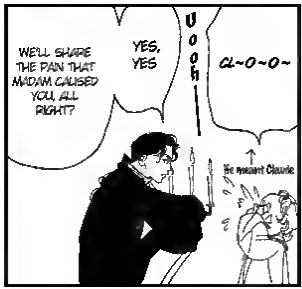

I'M SO STUPID !!
I'M SO STUPID ...!!
crack
IS ANYONE THERE?! THE CANDLESTICK FELL DOWN!! PLEASE BRING ME A LAMP-LIGHT QUICKLY!!
SOME BODY! !!
Crash!!
I'M SO SCARED... MADAM IS BE-COMING MORE AND MORE VIO-LENT LATELY, DON'T YOU THINK?
I'LL GO AND SPEAK TO HER
WHO'S GOING TO GO?
Maman?
GET OUT!! YOU LOOK JUST LIKE THAT MAN!! I DON'T EVEN WANT TO SEE YOU!!
!!
SLAM!







AND OF COURSE THE SERVANTS ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO SUFFERED.

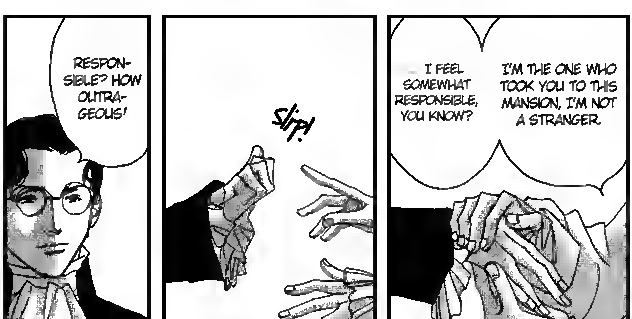


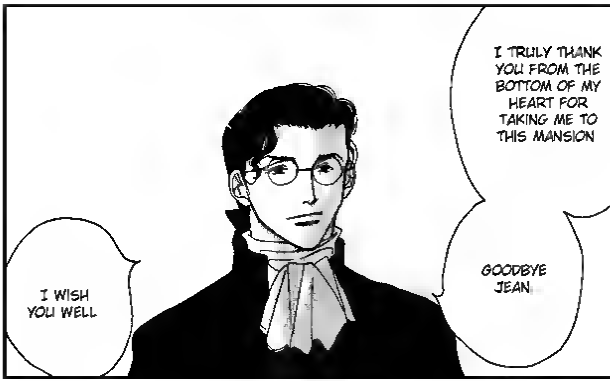
HONESTLY — WHEN I DO OCCASIONALLY SEE MY WIFE, THIS HAP-PENS
AAH, LATER IS FINE..
IT WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF SOON
I SUPPOSE I'M THE ONE AT FAULT EVEN THOUGH IT'S ME, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I AM AMAZED AT THE DEGREE OF MY OWN EXCESSIVE LECHERY.
SHALL I POUR SOME BRANDY?
NO.

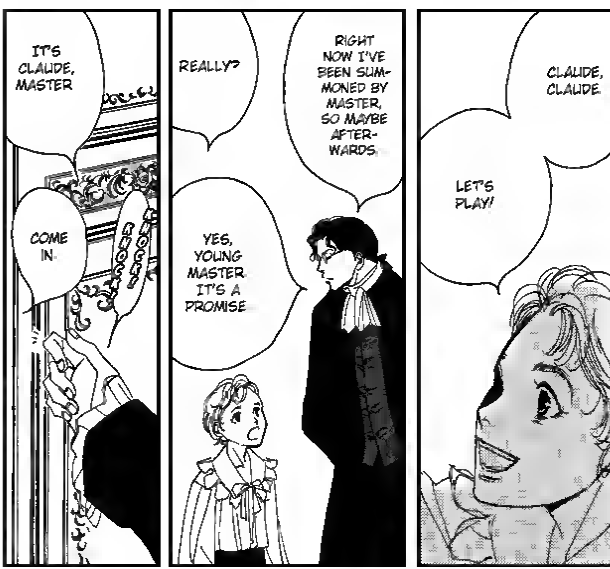
IF YOU COULD STAY BESIDE ME FOR A LITTLE WHILE, IT SHOULD BE FINE
CLAUDE.
FIVE YEARS HAVE PASSED.

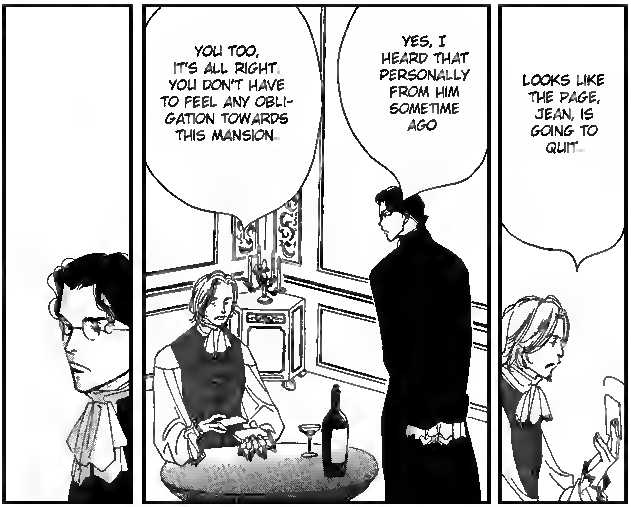
WON'T YOU LEAVE WITH ME TO WORK AT A NEW MANSION?

JEAN...
NO MATTER HOW MANY SERVANTS LEAVE, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF DOING SO
THEY ARE TELLING ME THAT THE WAGE IS 20% HIGHER THAN HERE WE'LL BE FREE FROM THIS MANSION WITH THAT HYSTERICAL AND BEDRIDDEN MADAM. PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER AND JUST LET THIS GO.

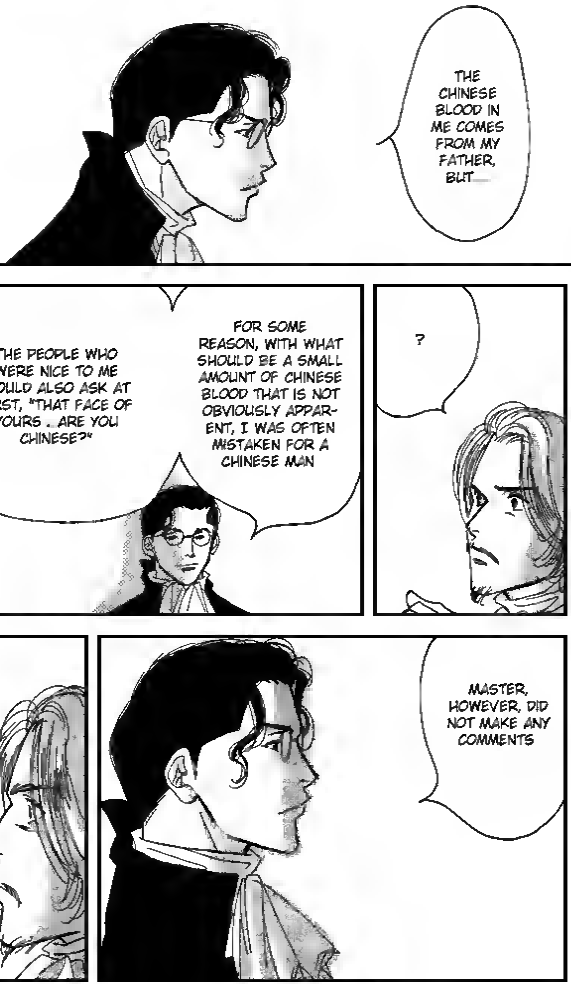

RESPONSIBLE? HOW OUTRAGEOUS!
SLIP!
I FEEL SOMEWHAT RESPONSIBLE, YOU KNOW?
I'M THE ONE WHO TOOK YOU TO THIS MANSION, I'M NOT A STRANGER.


I TRULY THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART FOR TAKING ME TO THIS MANSION
GOODBYE JEAN
I WISH YOU WELL

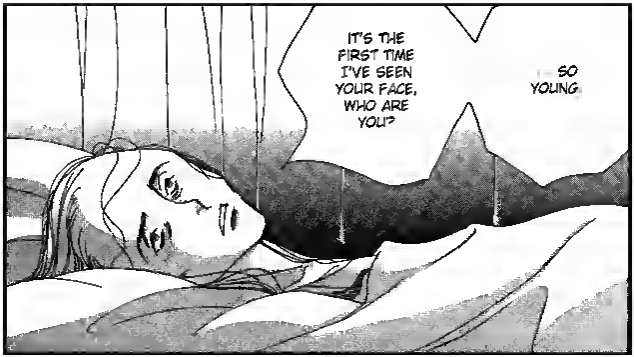

CLAUDE, CLAUDE
LET'S PLAY!
RIGHT NOW I'VE BEEN SUMMONED BY MASTER, SO MAYBE AFTERWARDS
REALLY?
YES, YOUNG MASTER IT'S A PROMISE
IT'S CLAUDE, MASTER
COME IN
KNOCK KNOCK

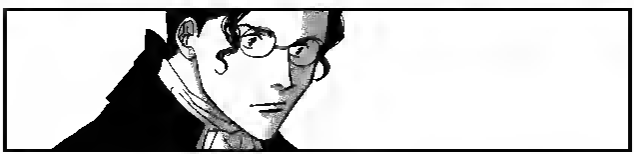

YOU TOO, IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEEL ANY OBLIGATION TOWARDS THIS MANSION.
YES, I HEARD THAT PERSONALLY FROM HIM SOMETIME AGO
LOOKS LIKE THE PAGE, JEAN, IS GOING TO QUIT.
YOU'RE SO CAPABLE AT ANYTHING
FOR YOU, THERE'S A FUTURE
I'VE BEEN FOOLING AROUND SO MUCH... I REALIZED RIGHT ABOUT NOW HOW STUPID THIS STORY IS. BUT REGRETTABLY, I'VE SPENT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF THIS HOUSE'S FORTUNE

IN ADDITION, THERE'S MY SICK WIFE.
HOW'S THAT? DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU WANT TO RUN AWAY?
NO, NOT REALLY.
THE BUTLER, HENRY, HAS JUST QUIT AS WELL.
Sigh!
EVEN THE BUTLER... THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY HAS BEEN ABANDONED, YOU KNOW ...!


THE CHINESE BLOOD IN ME COMES FROM MY FATHER, BUT...
?
FOR SOME REASON, WITH WHAT SHOULD BE A SMALL AMOUNT OF CHINESE BLOOD THAT IS NOT OBVIOUSLY APPARENT, I WAS OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR A CHINESE MAN
THE PEOPLE WHO WERE NICE TO ME WOULD ALSO ASK AT FIRST, "THAT FACE OF YOURS . ARE YOU CHINESE?"
MASTER, HOWEVER, DID NOT MAKE ANY COMMENTS

CLAUDE...
FROM NOW ON
YOU'LL BE THE NEW BUTLER IN THIS HOUSE.
I WILL ACCEPT THE POSITION WITH PLEASURE
ARE YOU THE NEW BUTLER THEY WERE TELLING ME ABOUT?
THAT IS CORRECT
COUGH!!!
SIGH



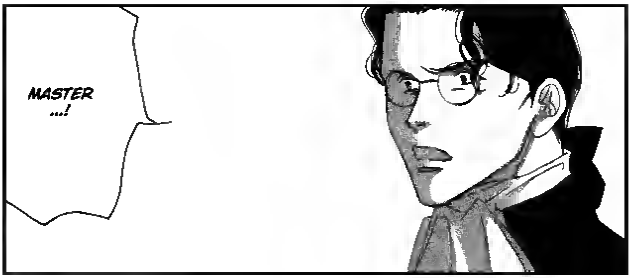


FROM THEN ON, MADAM SLOWLY BEGAN LOSING HER MIND AND SHE NEVER RE-GAINED IT BACK

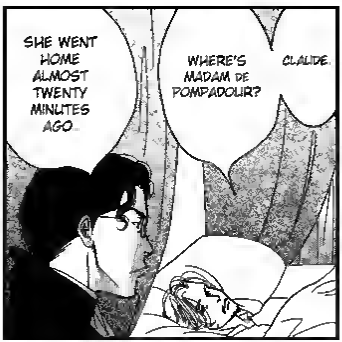
I WONDER IF MOTHER'S MADNESS IS A C-U-R-S-E.
YOU KNOW, CLAUDE...
FOR ME, THAT FLIRTING WAS WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE IMPERIAL GUARDS
I DON'T THINK IT'S ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. HE'S A SPECIAL CASE, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
MY AGE, FATHER WAS FLIRTING WITH THE MAID AND THE HANDMAIDENS AT THE COURT.
SINCE I CAN'T BE LIKE MY FATHER
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
rub rub

I CAN DO IT IF IT'S A MAN BUT NOT IF IT'S A WOMAN
HOW ABOUT YOU, CLAUDE ?
PLEASE THINK IT OVER CAREFULLY ARE THERE ANY GIRLS WHO MADE YOU THINK, "OH, SHE'S CUTE" OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
NONE.
THAT'S
I CERTAINLY DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S A CURSE
THEN, DOESN'T THAT MEAN YOUR LOVER IS MY FATHER?
BUT I'M DIFFERENT FROM YOUNG MASTER, BECAUSE MY CURRENT STATUS IN MY SOCIETY IS WHAT YOU CALL A "LOVER OF WORK".
THERE ISN'T ANYONE.

APART FROM THAT, A MASTER'S COMPANION MUST BE A NOBLEWOMAN
IT'S NOT JUST THAT.
CLAUDE...
BECAUSE CLAUDE'S WORK IS TO ASSIST MY FATHER, RIGHT?
JUST NOW, I COUGHED UP BLOOD
I COUGHED UP BLOOD ...
IS IT ALL RIGHT FOR YOU TO BE UP? ... YOU STILL HAVE A SLIGHT COLD.
WHY ... IT'S MASTER.



FIVE YEARS HAS PASSED SINCE HIS WIFE DIED


SHE WENT HOME ALMOST TWENTY MINUTES AGO.
WHERE'S MADAM DE POMPADOUR?
CLAUDE.

I DIDN'T REALIZE ... TIME IS GRADUALLY COMING FOR ME AS WELL.
I SEE.

CLAUDE. .
YES

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR COMING ESPECIALLY TO VISIT

NOBLE WOMEN OF VARIOUS AGES VISITED HIM

ANTOINE...
I BEG OF YOU...!
MY SON...
EVEN WITH THE BIRTH OF ANTOINE, I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF YOU AS MY SON, CLAUDE.
AND...
YES
NO MATTER WHAT.

I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU.

WOULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME ONCE AGAIN...

I HAVE
LOVED YOU,
NOT AS A SON
WOULD LOVE
HIS FATHER

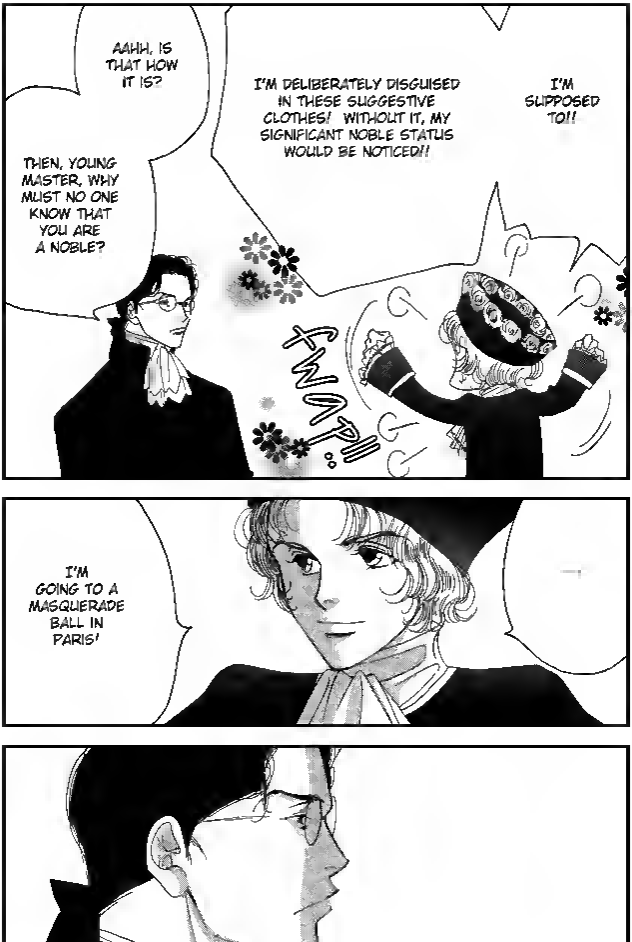
WHAT DO YOU THINK CLAUDE, DO I LOOK LIKE A COMMONER PLAYBOY?
AI TOWA YORU NI KIZUKU MONO
愛とは夜に気付くもの
YOU CERTAINLY DO
YOU LOOK LIKE THE PRODIGAL SON OF A PARVENU BOURGEOIS WITH AN UNSOPHISTICATED SENSE AND NOTHING BUT MONEY

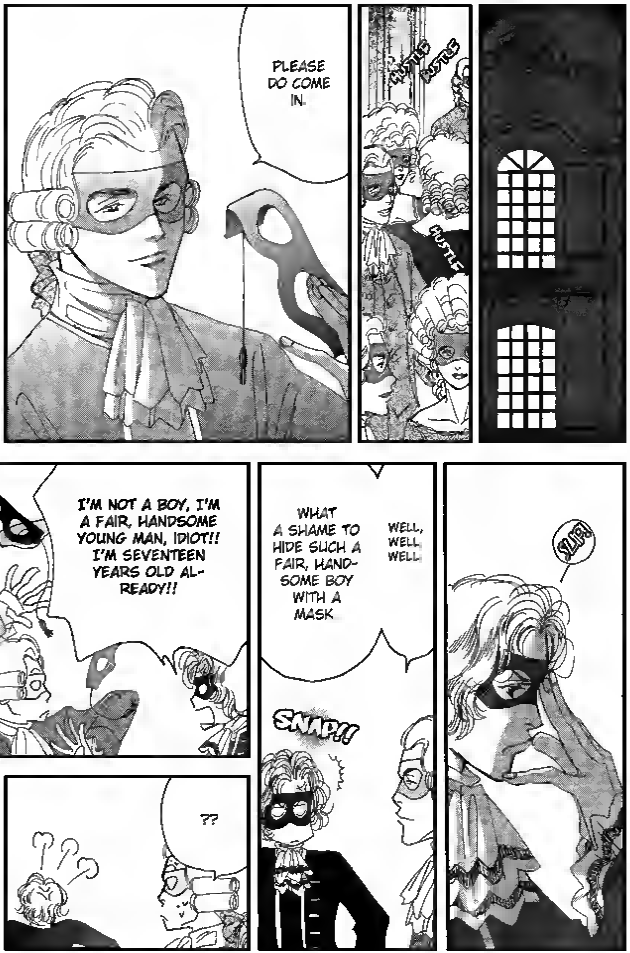
愛とは夜に気付くもの

AI TOWA YORU NI KIZUKU MONO

愛

I'm aware of love at night.


AAHH, IS THAT HOW IT IS?
THEN, YOUNG MASTER, WHY MUST NO ONE KNOW THAT YOU ARE A NOBLE?
I'M DELIBERATELY DISGUISED IN THESE SUGGESTIVE CLOTHES! WITHOUT IT, MY SIGNIFICANT NOBLE STATUS WOULD BE NOTICED!!
I'M SUPPOSED TO!!
FWAP!!
I'M GOING TO A MASQUERADE BALL IN PARIS!


PLEASE DO COME IN.
RUSTLE RUSTLE
RUSTLE
I'M NOT A BOY, I'M A FAIR, HANDSOME YOUNG MAN, IDIOT!! I'M SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD ALREADY!!
??
WHAT A SHAME TO HIDE SUCH A FAIR, HANDSOME BOY WITH A MASK
WELL, WELL, WELL
SNAP!!
EH?!

I CANNOT APPROVE OF THIS.
DOES A BUTLER GO AGAINST WHAT A MASTER WISHES TO DO?
THE POINT IS, UNTIL NOW YOU'VE NEVER EVEN INTERFERED WITH MY NIGHT LIFE
YES
YOUNG MASTER IS A YOUNG NOBLE FROM A DISTINGUISHED FAMILY AND EVERYONE IS YOUR GOOD AQUAINTANCE IF IT IS IN VERSAILES I HAVE NO CONCERN FOR ANYTHING THAT YOU DO
IF YOU HIDE YOUR SOCIAL STATUS BEHIND A MASK YOU'RE JUST A CHILD WHO IS IGNORANT TO THE WAYS OF THE WORLD. NOT TO MENTION INSOLENT

QUICKLY BRING OUT THE CARRIAGE! I WON'T BE COMING HOME TONIGHT!!
I'M [illegible] OUT!
PARIS IS NOT A GATHERING PLACE LIKE THE COURT FILLED WITH ONLY THE MORE REFINED YOUNG NOBLES
HAVE AN ENJOYABLE TRIP.

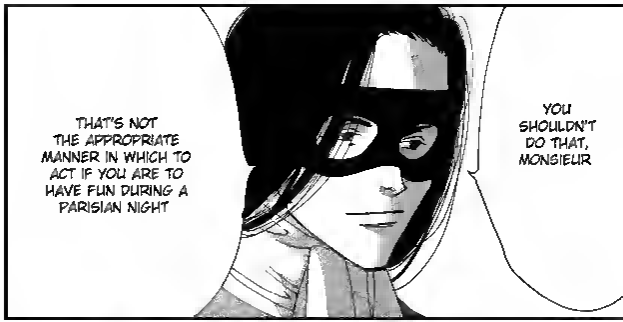
HOW DARE HE TREAT ME LIKE A CHILD, THAT CLAUDE!! AAHH, I'M SO ANGRY!!
fume!
fume!
fume!
HUH !!

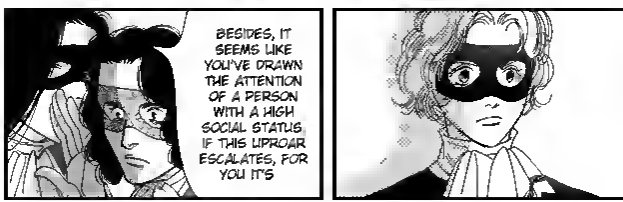
SEE THAT BLONDIE
BUT ...
WELL ...
Phew!

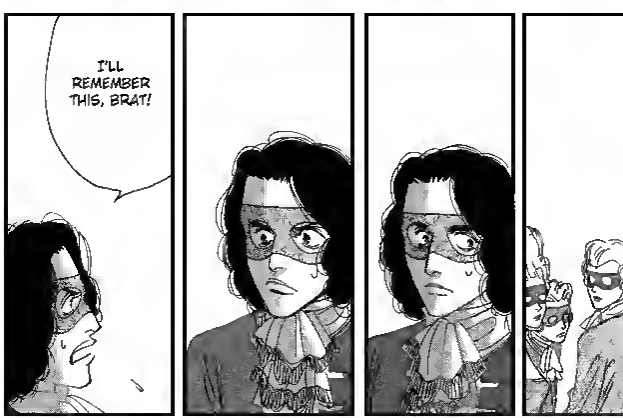
EVEN HIDDEN UNDER A MASK, IT'S STILL STREAMING OUT ISN'T IT, THIS BEAUTY!
HOW'S THAT?
But since he's a homosexual, he ignores the women
?!
?!
Grab!

SUCH PEARLY WHITE SKIN, HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO SLEEP WITH YOU FOR A NIGHT?
WHO'S A MALE PROSTITUTE, SIMPLETON?
IF YOU CONTINUE TO GRAB MY FACE WITH YOUR HAIRY HAND, I SHALL KICK YOUR PRIVATES WITH ALL MY MIGHT.

THAT TERRIBLY FILTHY FRENCH LANGUAGE AND THAT UNFASHIONABLE HAIRPIECE, WHAT A BACKWATER FEUDAL LORD!!
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S IMPOLITE TO JERK SOMEONE'S FACE SUDDENLY, UTTERING NOT EVEN A SINGLE PLEASANTRY?
H... HOW RUDE, THIS BRAT...!!
SWOOSH!
SWING!
YOU COMMONER BRAT...! I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO TALK TO A NOBLE!
CATCH!


THAT'S NOT THE APPROPRIATE MANNER IN WHICH TO ACT IF YOU ARE TO HAVE FUN DURING A PARISIAN NIGHT
YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT, MONSIEUR


BESIDES, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE DRAWN THE ATTENTION OF A PERSON WITH A HIGH SOCIAL STATUS. IF THIS UPROAR ESCALATES, FOR YOU IT'S


I'LL REMEMBER THIS, BRAT!

IF YOU HAVE A HIDDEN MOTIVE, I WILL NOT EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE
HAHA, THEN DON'T SAY IT, JUST IN CASE
HAVE A GOOD NIGHT.

SOME CHAMPAGNE? BEAUTIFUL MONSIEUR...
HEY,
la la la
chatter
chatter
chatter
I'LL HAVE IT.
SPRINKLE
SPRINKLE
SPRINKLE
SPRINKLE

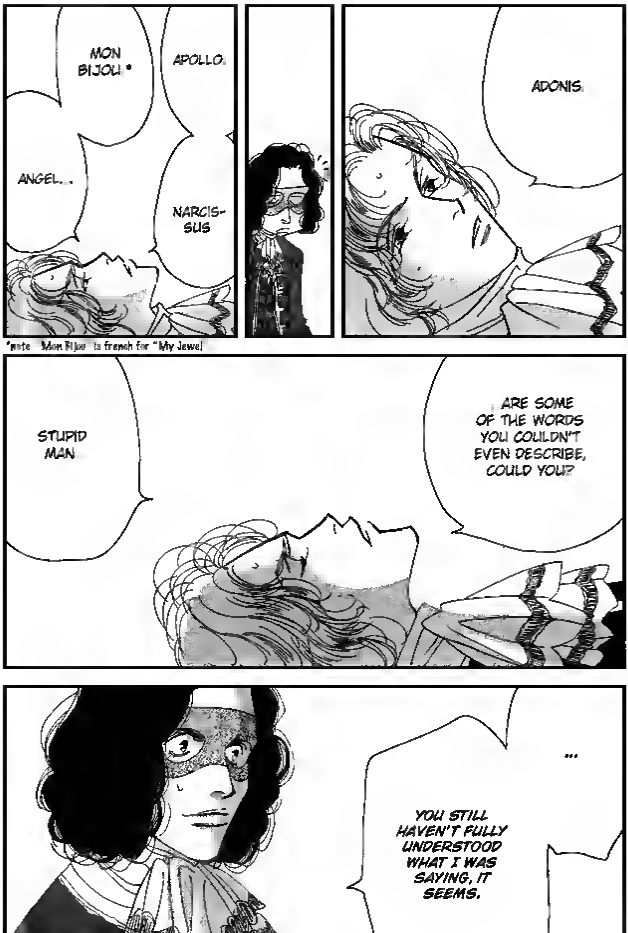
NN...
EXCUSE ME
ISN'T YOUR BODY STARTING TO FEEL NUMB?
EXCUSE ME MONSIEUR

THE PARA-LYZING POTION
THANK GOD, IT'S FINALLY WORKING!
I
HUH? NO
NOTHING LIKE THAT ... WHY?
UHUM
I'M SORRY MONSIEUR BUT IT WAS NOTHING PERSONAL
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK, THIS IS THE OTHER HALF OF THE MONEY
STUMP!
THE CHAMPAGNE ...?
....

BRAT!
I TOLD YOU I'D REMEMBER, DIDN'T I? DID YOU REMEMBER?

REALLY.
A PERSON OF HUMBLE BIRTH WILL DO ANYTHING IF YOU LET THEM HAVE YOUR MONEY.
SLITHERY
AND YOU TOO, IF YOU HAD LISTENED AND TOOK THE MONEY QUIETLY, VIOLENT BEHAVIOR LIKE THIS—

HOW...
BEAUTIFUL...!

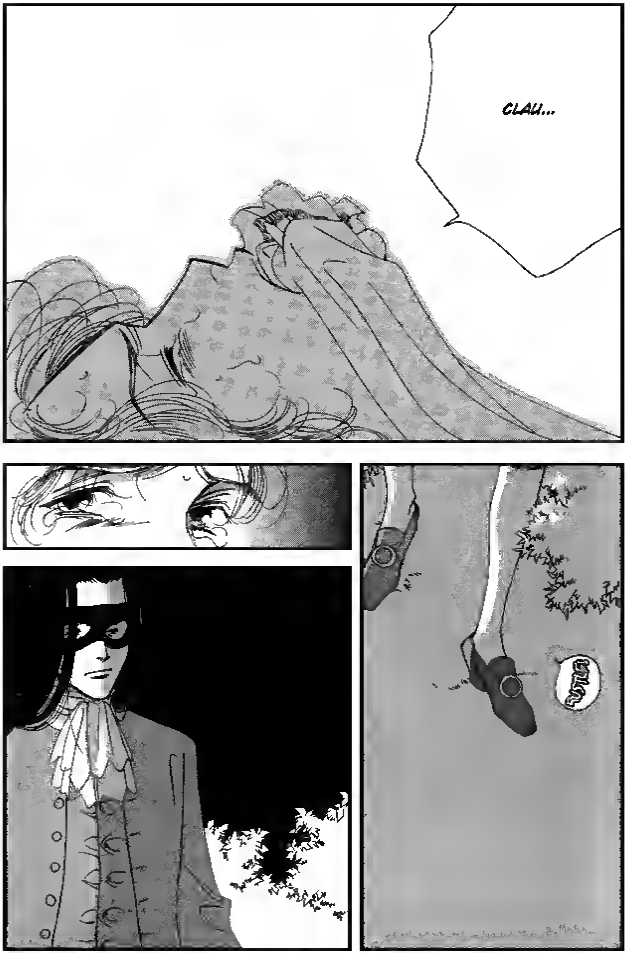


*note "Mon Bijou" is french for "My Jewel"

I'M THE ELDEST SON OF A DISTINGUISHED FAMILY CLOSELY TIED TO THE MEDICI FAMILY LINE, YOU KNOW?
WE WOULDN'T BE IN SUCH AN UNSEEMLY PLACE LIKE THIS IF YOU HAD JUST LISTENED TO WHAT I SAID, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?!
SNAP!

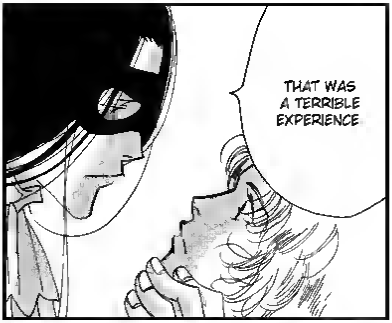
GUUH ...!
FUFUFU-
HA HAHA HAHA HA

HOW'S THAT!
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU DID, BRAT?! HOW'S THAT!
KUKUKU ...
U—HH...!!!
UUH...!
UUHH...!!


CLAU...
CLAUDE

WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO SAY BUT...
"I SHALL BE GONE AT ONCE".
IS...
...GH... WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
GO AWAY!!
WHACK...

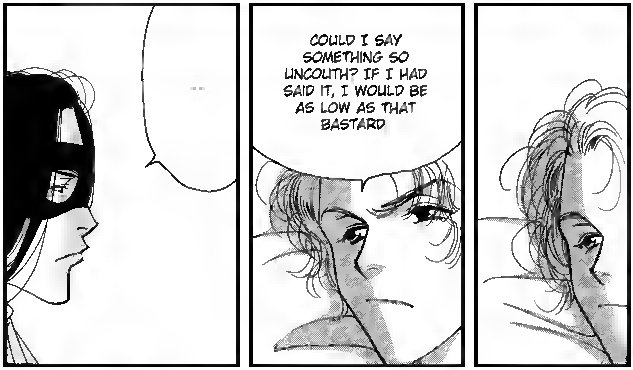
SPRINKLE
SPRINKLE
SPRINKLE
UH...
SPRINKLE
SPRINKLE
SPRINKLE
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOLD ON TO ME?

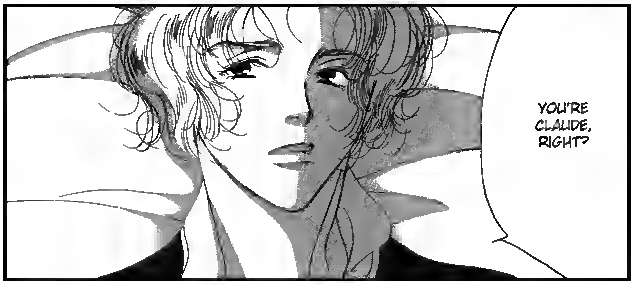

THAT WAS A TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE

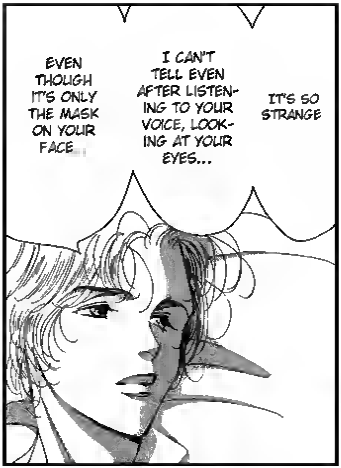
SPRINKLE
SPRINKLE
SPRINKLE
SPRINKLE
SPRINKLE
SPRINKLE

BUNG

THIS IS...
A LODGING BELONGING TO MY FRIEND.
...YOU'RE A NOBLE AREN'T YOU? WHY DIDN'T YOU REVEAL YOUR SOCIAL STATUS TO THAT HAIRY BASTARD?


...
COULD I SAY SOMETHING SO UNCOUTH? IF I HAD SAID IT, I WOULD BE AS LOW AS THAT BASTARD

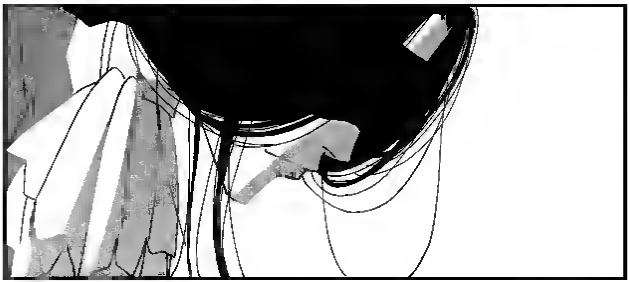

YOU'RE CLAUDE, RIGHT?


EVEN THOUGH IT'S ONLY THE MASK ON YOUR FACE...
I CAN'T TELL EVEN AFTER LISTENING TO YOUR VOICE, LOOKING AT YOUR EYES...
IT'S SO STRANGE

MAYBE...

IF YOU CAN'T TELL, LEAVE IT AT THAT.
WHEN THE DAWN BREAKS, IT'S BUT A FADING DREAM.

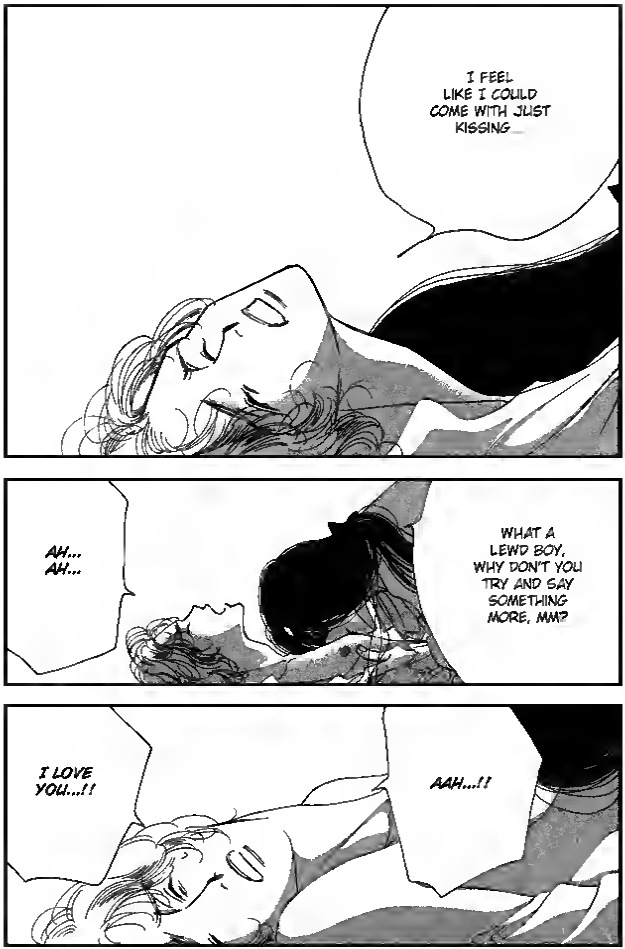
"WHERE ONE'S TRUE COLORS WON'T BE REVEALED", THAT'S WHAT A MASQUERADE BALL IS ABOUT.
YOU'RE RIGHT.



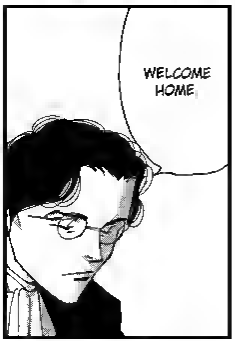
Chu...
ONE MORE TIME

NO
I DON'T MIND.
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE A SUB-STITUTE?
I MIGHT NOT BE YOUR CLAUDE, YOU KNOW.
RIGHT NOW, I WANT TO SLEEP WITH YOU.

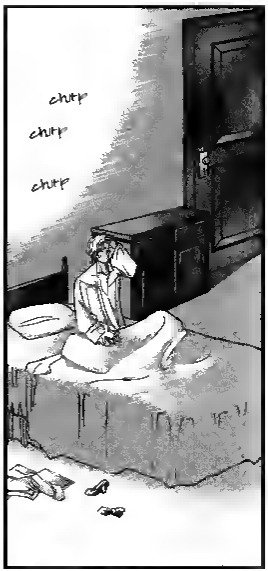
ku chul
chul
DATE
ku chul
AAHH...

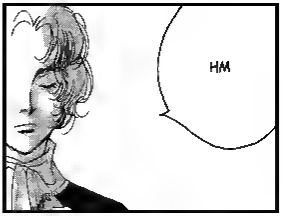

I FEEL LIKE I COULD COME WITH JUST KISSING__
AH... AH...
WHAT A LEWD BOY, WHY DON'T YOU TRY AND SAY SOMETHING MORE, MM?
I LOVE YOU...!!
AAH...!!

I LOVE YOU...!
NN...



WHEN I WOKE UP, THE FIGURE OF THAT MAN WAS GONE



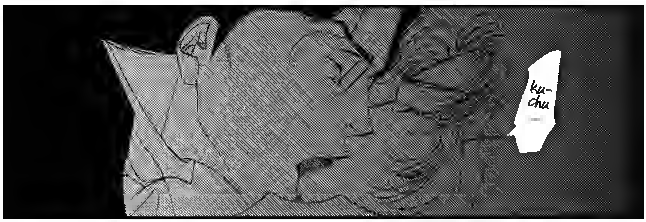


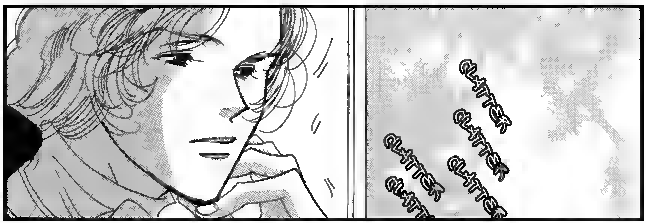
IT WAS
A ONE
NIGHT'S
DREAM

SOON AFTER "BUTLER STATUS"

I'm aware of love at night.

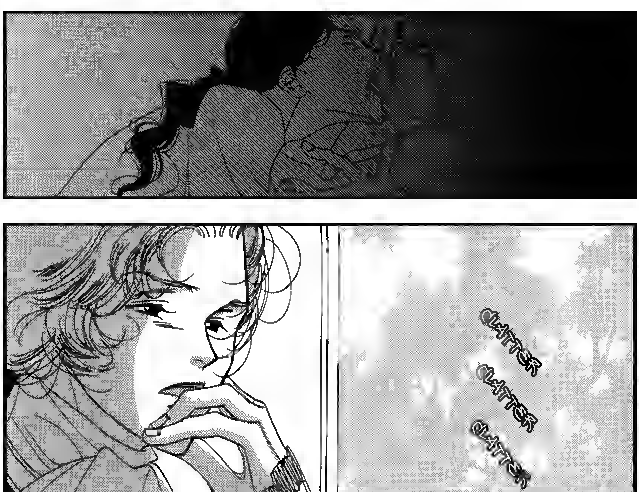
I HAVE BEEN IN LOVE WITH YOU.
DEEPER THAN ANYONE ELSE
FROM MY HEART....

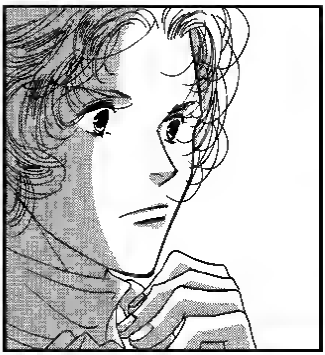

ku-chu


GLITTER
GLITTER
GLITTER
GLITTER
GLITTER

IN PARIS, A RIOT IS ABOUT TO START AND CLAUDE TOLD ME THAT HE IS QUITTING HIS POSITION AS MY BUTLER. HE EMBRACED ME AND LOVED ME—

YESTERDAY I FELT AS IF SEVERAL DECADES HAD GONE BY.





AND TODAY, IN ORDER TO ESCAPE FROM THE REVOLUTION, I'M TO RETURN TO MY AUNT'S ESTATE BY THE RHINE RIVER

THAT'S RIGHT. THE REVOLUTION

COME TO THINK OF IT. THERE'S THAT MATTER TOO. I FORGOT.

I suppose that's why I'm in a carriage.

SOON AFTER 'BUTLER STATUS' - CHO3 / END

Fumi Yoshinaga's Lovers in the Night™

BLU

PARENTAL ADVISORY

Lovers in the Night

Fumi Yoshinaga

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ANTOINE
A SON OF AN HONORABLE ARISTOCRATIC FAMILY. HE USES HIS LINEAGE AND GOOD LOOKS TO GET WHATEVER HE WANTS. AND OF COURSE, TO PUSH CLAUDE AROUND.

CLAUDE
ANTOINE'S HIGHLY CAPABLE BUTLER. THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN BRUSH OFF ANTOINE'S SELFISH BEHAVIOR. HE HAS SERVED THE FAMILY SINCE ANTOINE'S FATHER WAS MASTER.

* "THE FIRST STORY OF THIS SERIES, "A BUTLER'S PROPER PLACE," IS FEATURED IN BLUE TRUE, KINDLY (CHONTO NI YASASHII)

A Master's Proper Place

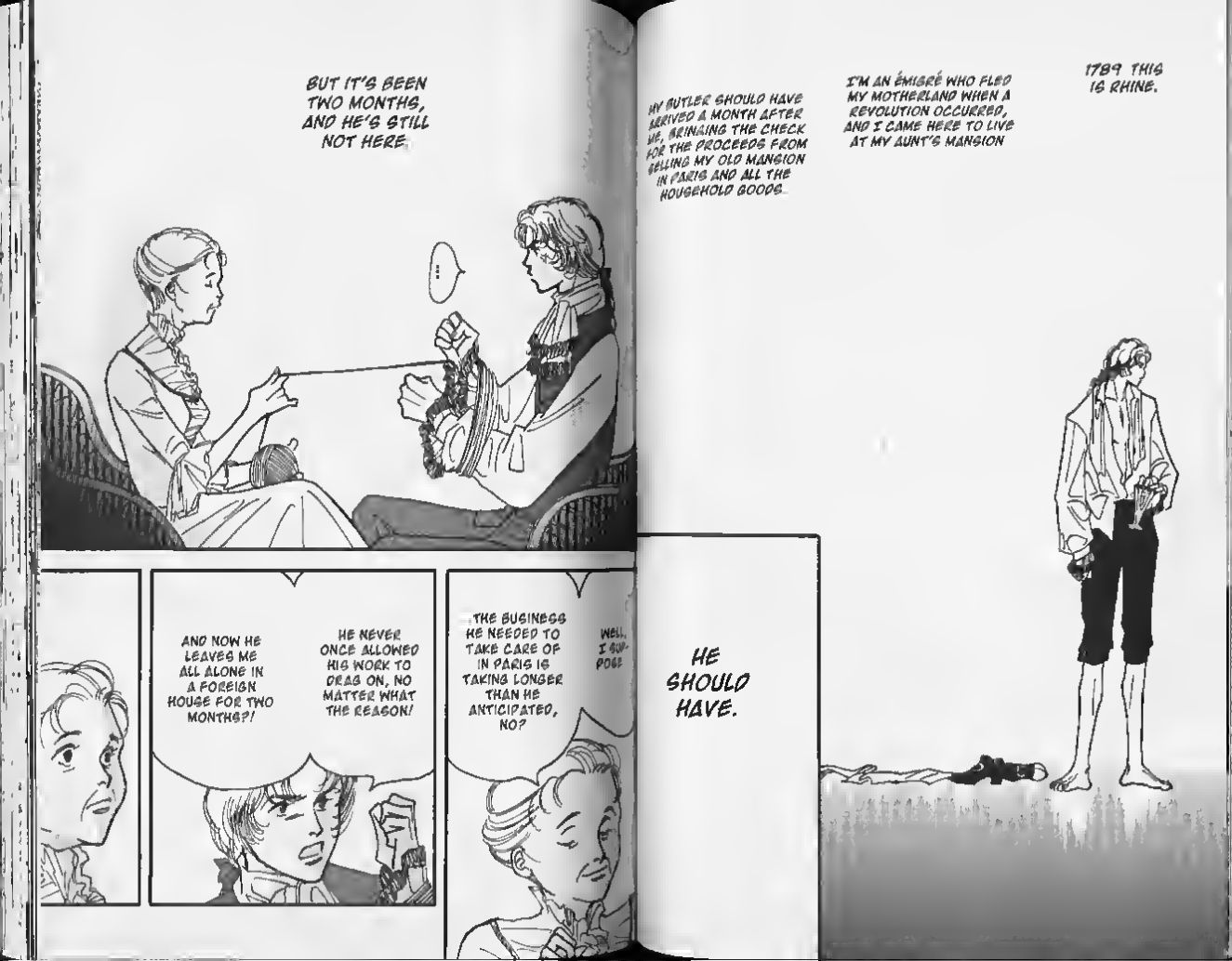
I'M SURE YOU DON'T REMEMBER, BUT WHEN I WENT BACK HOME TO VISIT WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE, I ALWAYS PLAYED WITH YOU!
MY, MY, YOU'RE MY NEPHEW ANTOINE? SUCH LOVELY BLONDE HAIR!

.....
OH, IT BRINGS BACK SO MANY MEMORIES LET ME TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT YOUR FACE
EVER SINCE MY HUSBAND PASSED AWAY AND MY CHILDREN ALL WENT OFF AND GOT MARRIED, I'VE BEEN SO LONELY
I RECEIVED A TERRIBLY POLITE LETTER OF THANKS FROM YOUR BUTLER I DO HOPE YOU REST WELL TONIGHT, ALL RIGHT?

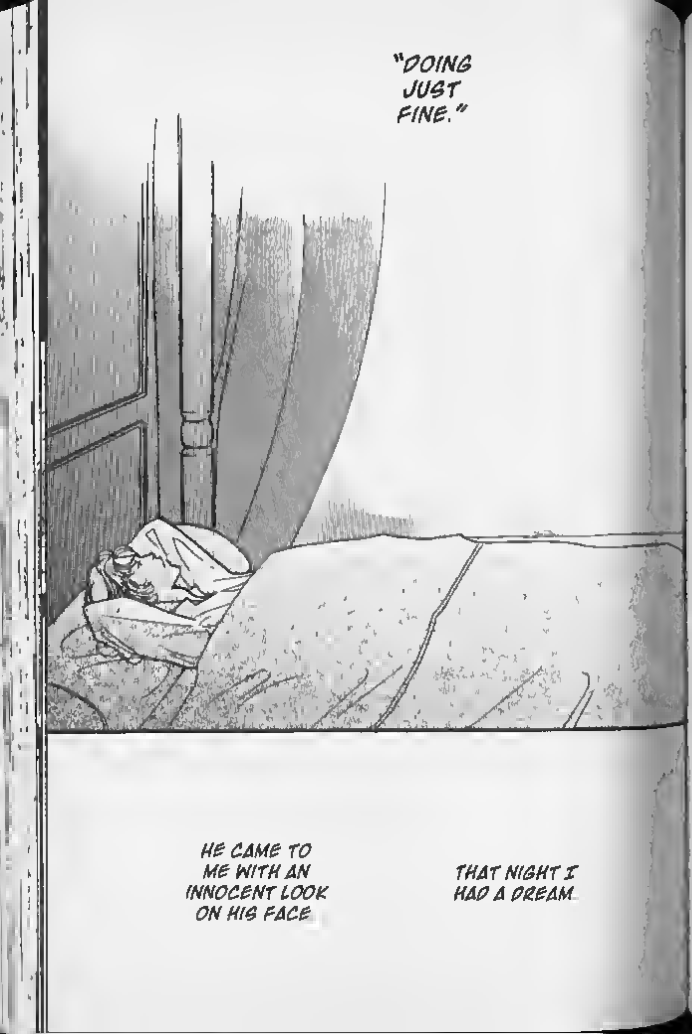
"I'LL COME TO CALL ON YOU IN A MONTH."

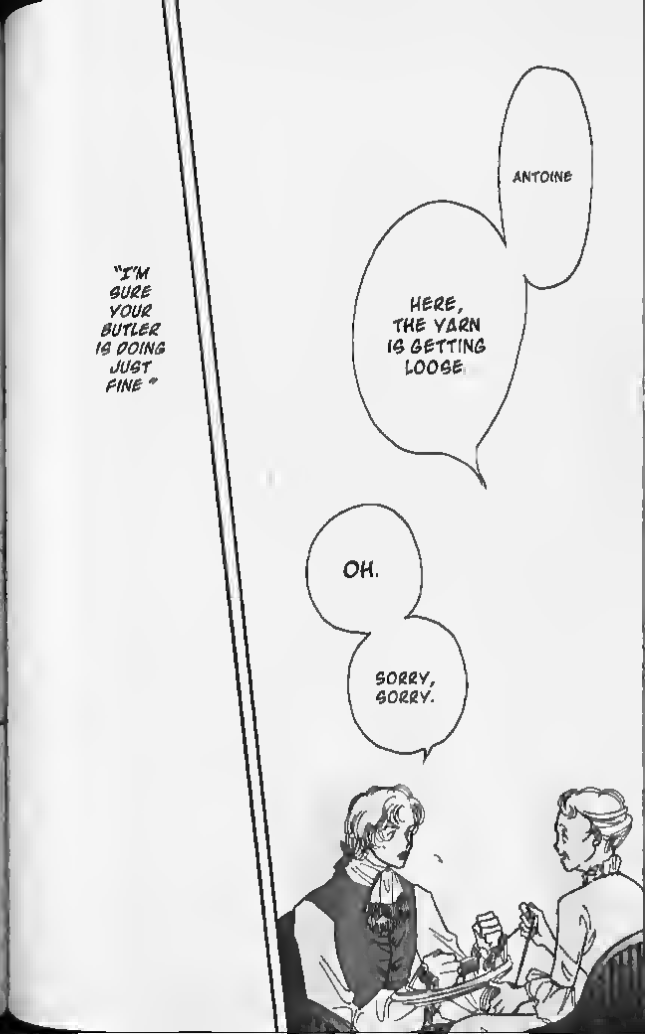
"OH, AND MASTER! PLEASE DON'T SAY ANYTHING TOO GAUCHE IN FRONT OF YOUR AUNT."

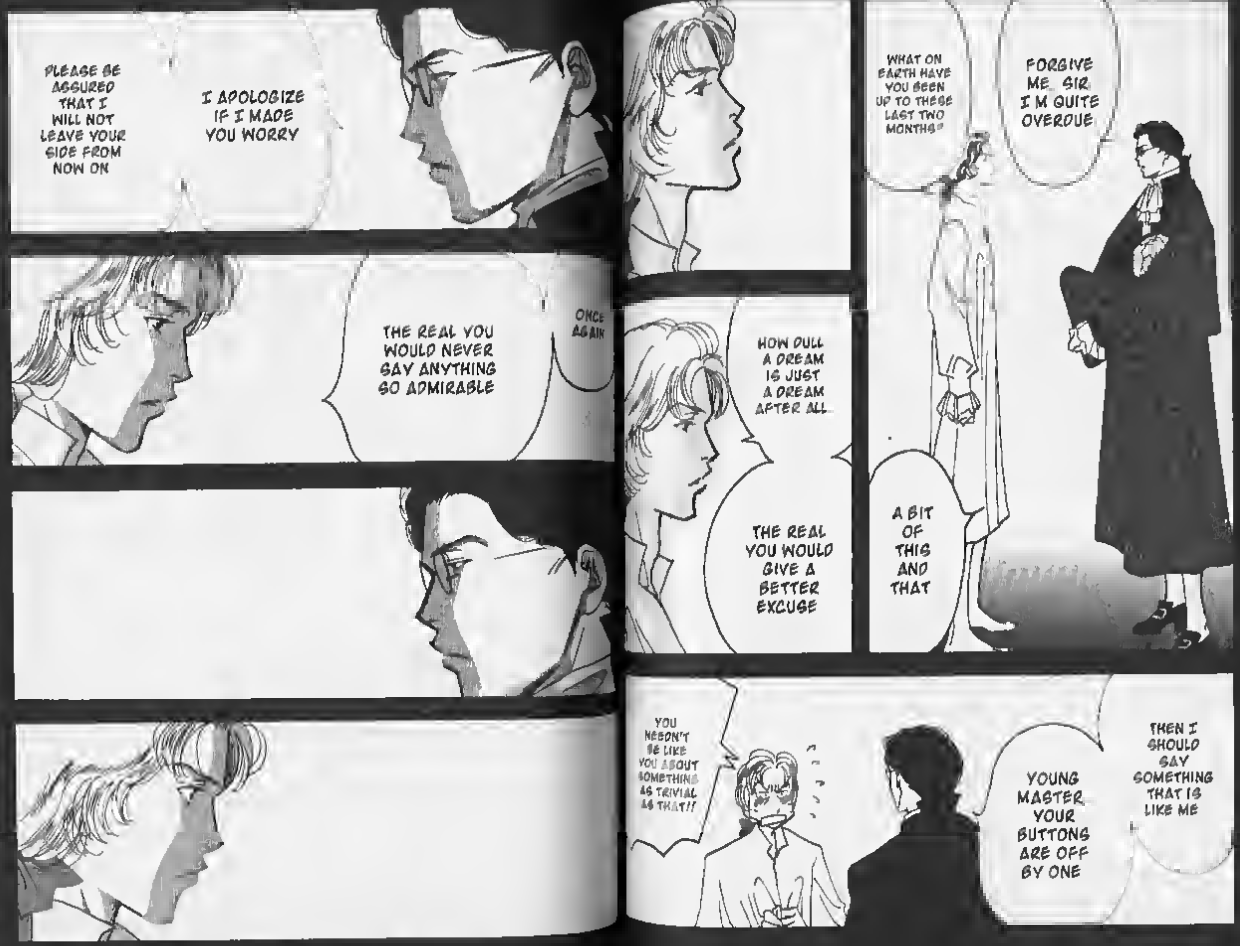
"TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF."


1789. THIS IS RHINE.
I'M AN ÉMIGRÉ WHO FLED MY MOTHERLAND WHEN A REVOLUTION OCCURRED, AND I CAME HERE TO LIVE AT MY AUNT'S MANSION
MY BUTLER SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED A MONTH AFTER ME, BRINGING THE CHECK FOR THE PROCEEDS FROM SELLING MY OLD MANSION IN PARIS AND ALL THE HOUSEHOLD GOODS.
HE SHOULD HAVE.
BUT IT'S BEEN TWO MONTHS, AND HE'S STILL NOT HERE.
!
WELL, I SUPPOSE
THE BUSINESS HE NEEDED TO TAKE CARE OF IN PARIS IS TAKING LONGER THAN HE ANTICIPATED, NO?
HE NEVER ONCE ALLOWED HIS WORK TO DRAG ON, NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON!
AND NOW HE LEAVES ME ALL ALONE IN A FOREIGN HOUSE FOR TWO MONTHS?!

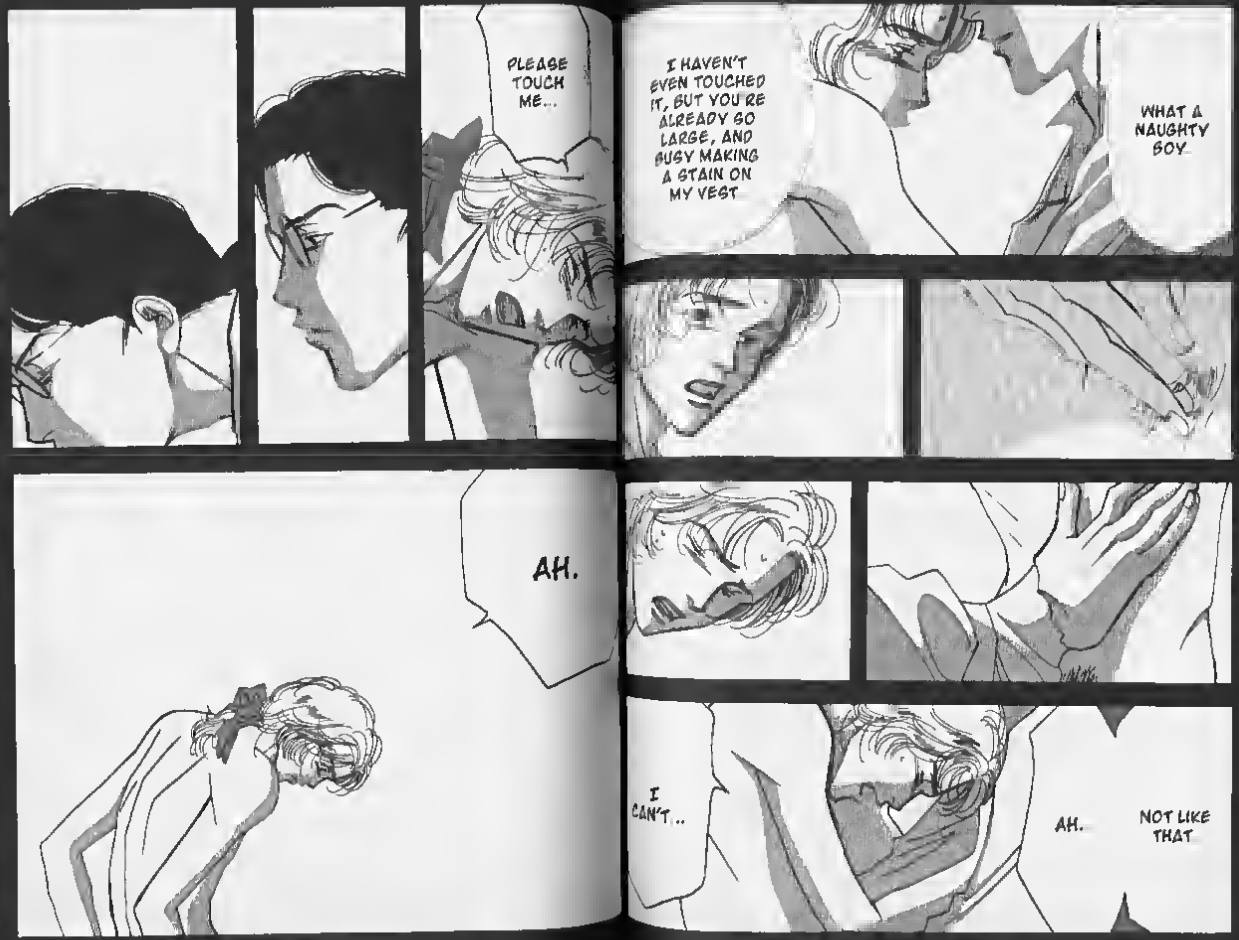
PARIS IS DANGEROUS NOW AND I UNDERSTAND HOW WORRIED YOU MUST BE
BUT I'M SURE YOUR BUTLER IS DOING JUST FINE.
HE HAS ORIENTAL BLOOD FROM HIS MOTHER'S SIDE SO HIS EYES ARE ALMOND-SHAPED, AND HE HAS PITCH-DARK HAIR
I SUSPECT HE'S YOUNGER THAN I THINK.
.....
HA! IT'S ALMOST ANNOYING HOW CAPABLE HE IS
BUT HEARING YOU SPEAK SO HIGHLY OF HIM HE MUST BE TRULY COMPETENT AT HIS WORK
A MERE COMMONER, BUT HE SPEAKS PERFECT FRENCH LIKE A PROFESSOR
WITH THAT CALM COMPOSURE THAT MAKES IT SEEM LIKE HE KNOWS EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD. .AND HIS EVIL-LOOKING THIN LIPS!


"DOING JUST FINE."
HE CAME TO ME WITH AN INNOCENT LOOK ON HIS FACE
THAT NIGHT I HAD A DREAM

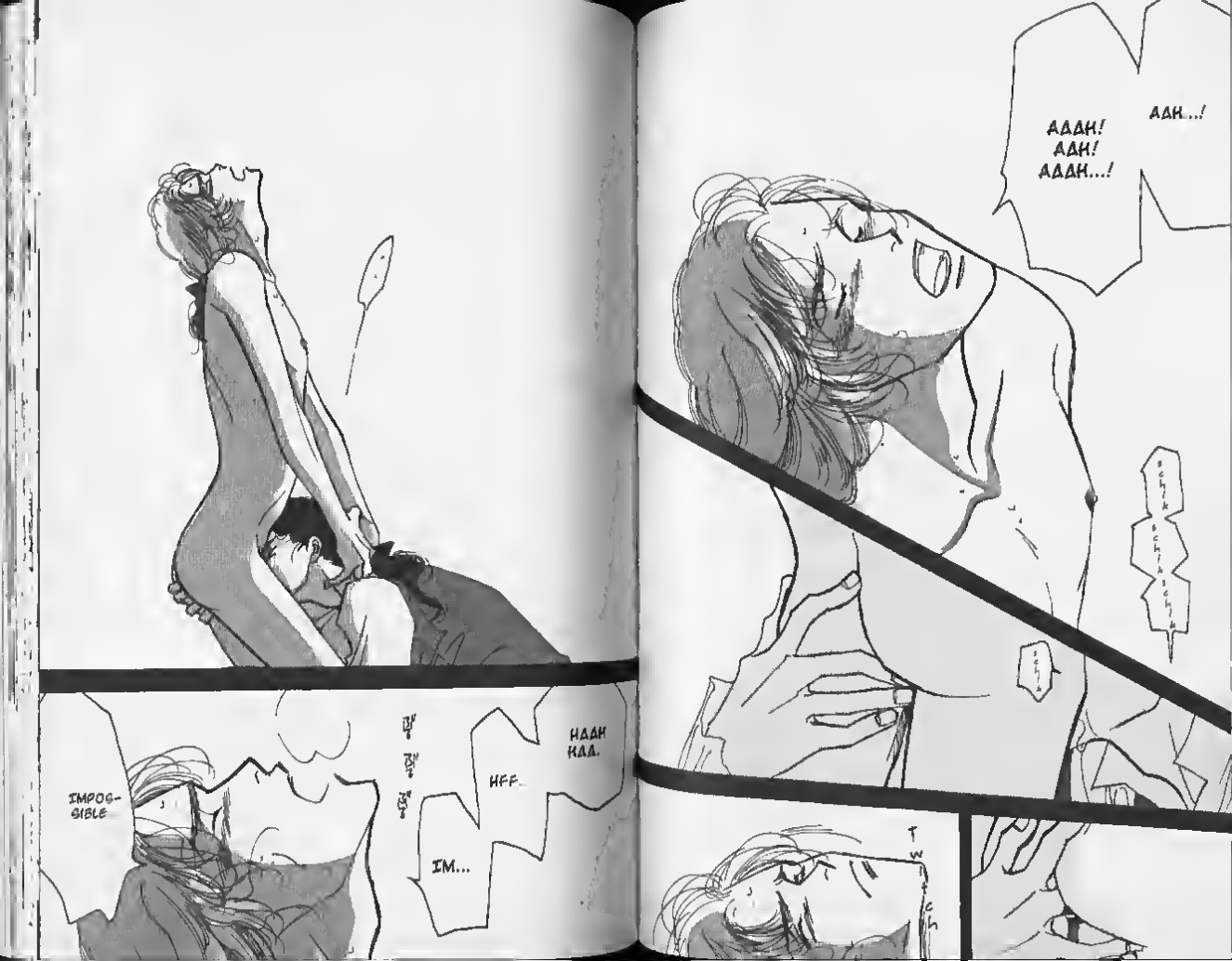

"I'M SURE YOUR BUTLER IS DOING JUST FINE."
ANTOINE
HERE, THE YARN IS GETTING LOOSE
OH.
SORRY, SORRY.


PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT I WILL NOT LEAVE YOUR SIDE FROM NOW ON
I APOLOGIZE IF I MADE YOU WORRY
THE REAL YOU WOULD NEVER SAY ANYTHING SO ADMIRABLE
ONCE AGAIN
WHAT ON EARTH HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO THESE LAST TWO MONTHS?
FORGIVE ME, SIR. I'M QUITE OVERDUE
A BIT OF THIS AND THAT
HOW DULL A DREAM IS JUST A DREAM AFTER ALL
THE REAL YOU WOULD GIVE A BETTER EXCUSE
YOU HAVEN'T BE LIKE YOU ABOUT SOMETHING AS TRIVIAL AS THAT!!
YOUNG MASTER YOUR BUTTONS ARE OFF BY ONE
THEN I SHOULD SAY SOMETHING THAT IS LIKE ME

AH...
chu
BUT I DON'T CARE
NOW
KISS ME
IN YOUR DREAM?
...
EVEN IF IT'S JUST A DREAM
TAKE ME
NNGH!
Hff

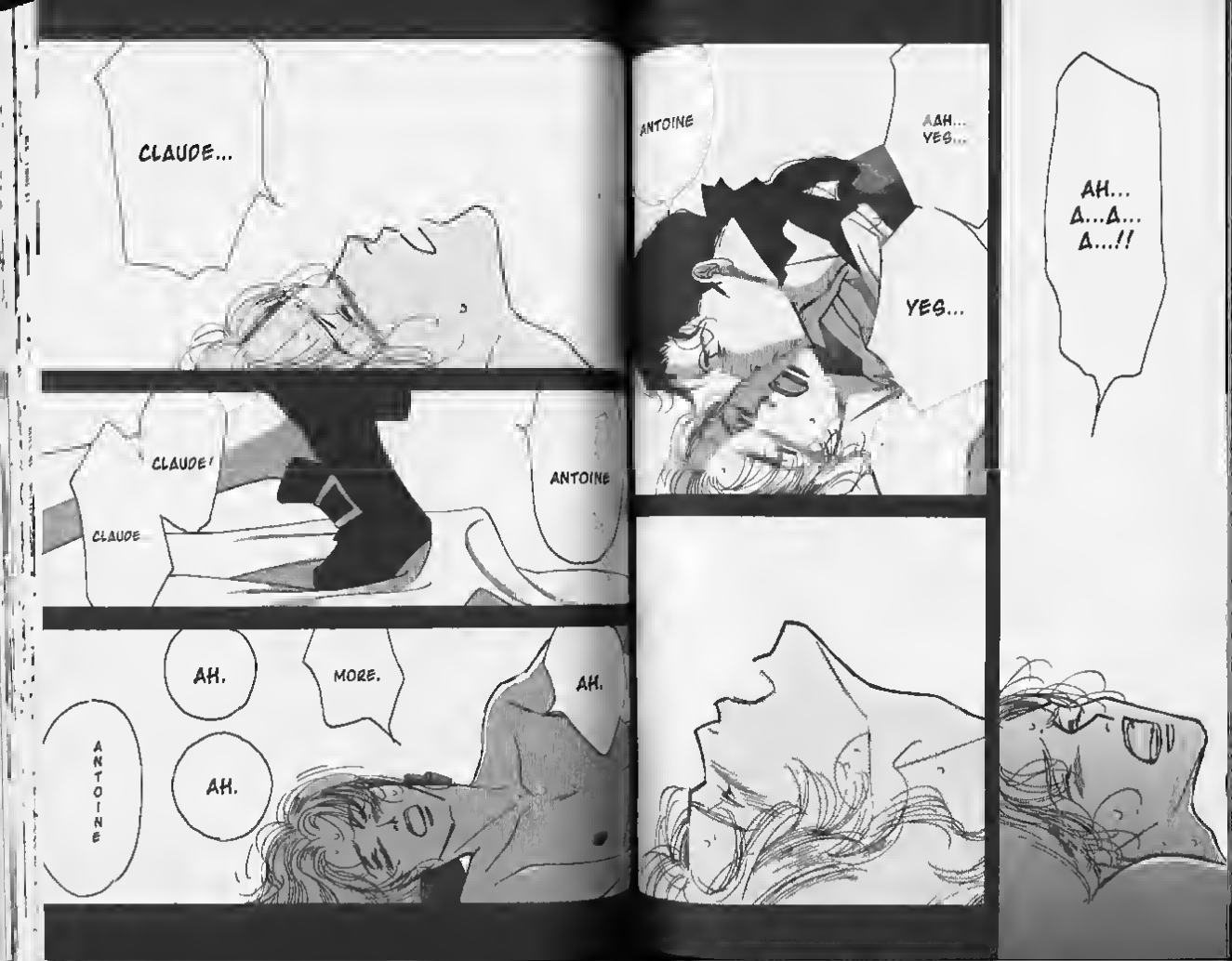

PLEASE TOUCH ME...
I HAVEN'T EVEN TOUCHED IT, BUT YOU'RE ALREADY SO LARGE, AND BUSY MAKING A STAIN ON MY VEST
WHAT A NAUGHTY BOY
AH.
I CAN'T..
AH.
NOT LIKE THAT

AH...
AH_ //
SCHLK
SCHLK
Chu


AAAH!
AAH!
AAAH...!
AAH...!
schik schik schik
IMPOS-
SIBLE
IM...
HFF...
HAAH
HAA.
T
w
i
ch

OPEN YOUR LEGS.
NOW, ANTOINE
TICK
TOCK

WHAT IS IT?
...THIS AGONY HASN'T LESSENED AT ALL!
I'M STILL SO HOT...!
BECAUSE IT'S A DREAM.

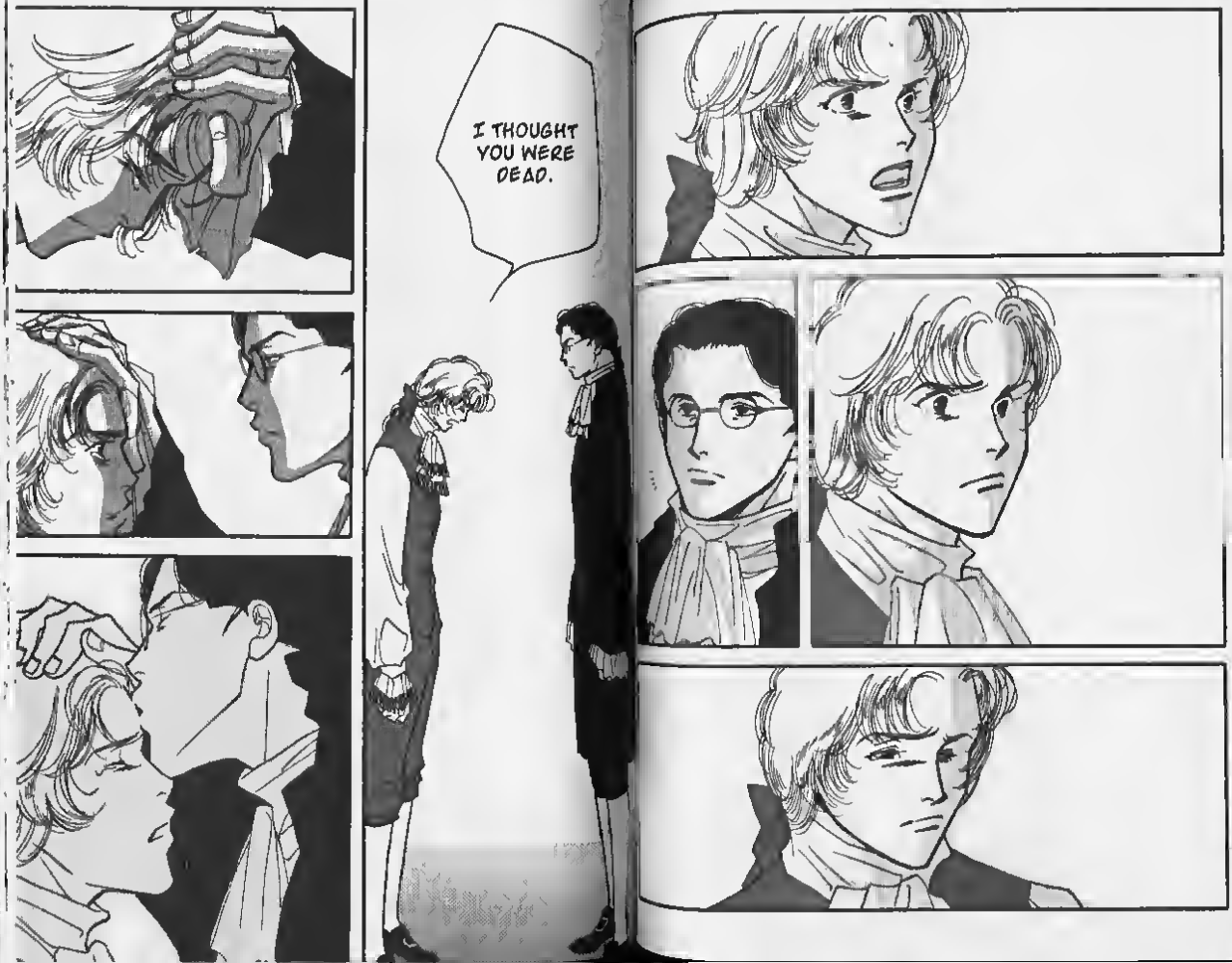

CLAUDE...
CLAUDE!
CLAUDE
ANTOINE
AH.
MORE.
AH.
ANTOINE
AH.
ANTOINE
AAH...
YES...
YES...
AH...
A...A...
A...!!

AAAAHH!
IF YOU WISH FOR IT, I'LL DO WHATEVER VULGAR DEED YOU LIKE.
GIVE IT TO ME HARDER
DO IT UNTIL I BREAK APART!!
YES... YES... YES...!
MORE... MORE...
AH!
UH. YES!

AND THAT DAY, THE REAL CLAUDE FINALLY ARRIVED.

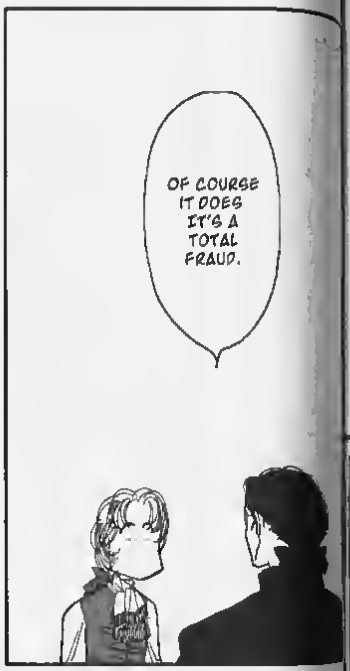
I FORGOT THE DETAILS THE MOMENT I WOKE UP.

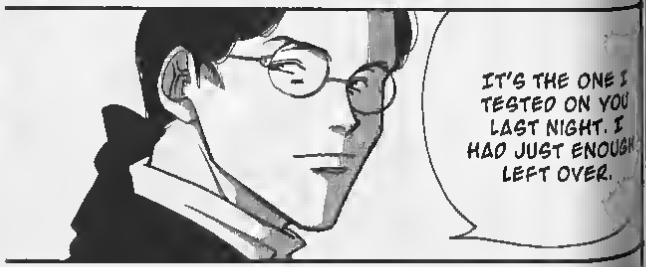
HEY!
OH, GOODNESS HOW AMUSING WOULD YOU CARE FOR SOME TEA?
I WAS DOING THINGS I CANNOT SPEAK OF IN POLITE COMPANY.
HE IS QUITE THE SELFISH ONE AND I'M SURE HE CAUSED YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE THESE PAST TWO MONTHS.
THANK YOU, MADAM WHATEVER MY MASTER MAY HAVE SAID ABOUT ME, I AM INDEED CLAUDE GUILBERT.
MY, MY YOU ARE THE BUTLER YOU ARE EXACTLY HOW ANTOINE DESCRIBED YOU
CLAUDE! YOU'RE A MONTH LATE. WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
OF COURSE NOT! WE HAD SO MUCH FUN TOGETHER! HE WAS SO WELL-BEHAVED THE WHOLE TIME. RIGHT, ANTOINE?
TWO MONTHS TWO MONTHS! LET ME HEAR YOUR EXCUSE FOR WHY YOU MADE ME WAIT! COME ON, NOW!!
AUNTIE'S NOT HERE, SO TELL ME!
WHAT IS IT, SIR?
A BIT OF THIS AND THAT.


I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD.

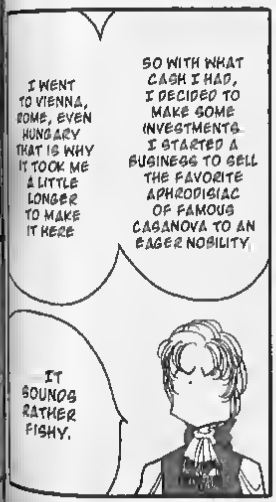
.....
IT'S NOT COMPLETELY A RIP-OFF, OF COURSE WE JUST SOLD A LOVE DRUG THAT PROVIDES A HALLUCINOGENIC EFFECT FOR A RIDICULOUSLY HIGH PRICE

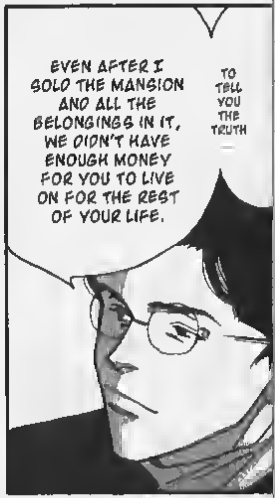
COULD IT BE


OF COURSE IT DOES IT'S A TOTAL FRAUD.

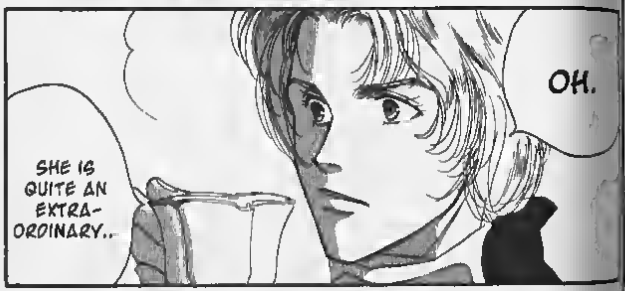

IT'S THE ONE I TESTED ON YOU LAST NIGHT. I HAD JUST ENOUGH LEFT OVER.

HE'S TREATING ME LIKE A KID!
NOW, NOW
DON'T CRY THERE'S A GOOD BOY


I WENT TO VIENNA, SOME, EVEN HUNGARY THAT IS WHY IT TOOK ME A LITTLE LONGER TO MAKE IT HERE
SO WITH WHAT CASH I HAD, I DECIDED TO MAKE SOME INVESTMENTS. I STARTED A BUSINESS TO SELL THE FAVORITE APHRODISIAC OF FAMOUS CASANOVA TO AN EAGER NOBILITY
IT SOUNDS RATHER FISHY.


EVEN AFTER I SOLD THE MANSION AND ALL THE BELONGINGS IN IT, WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY FOR YOU TO LIVE ON FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH

OH, ANTOINE. LET ME INTRODUCE YOU. THIS IS MY GRANDDAUGHTER.


OH.
SHE IS QUITE AN EXTRA-ORDINARY..

GOOD DAY TO YOU.

THAT IS WHY I SAID I COULDN'T SAY IT IN POLITE COMPANY.
CLAUDE!!
SO IN CONCLUSION, I WAS ABLE TO MAKE ENOUGH MONEY FOR YOU TO NEVER WORK THE REST OF YOUR LIFE AND STILL PROVIDE MY LIFETIME SALARY

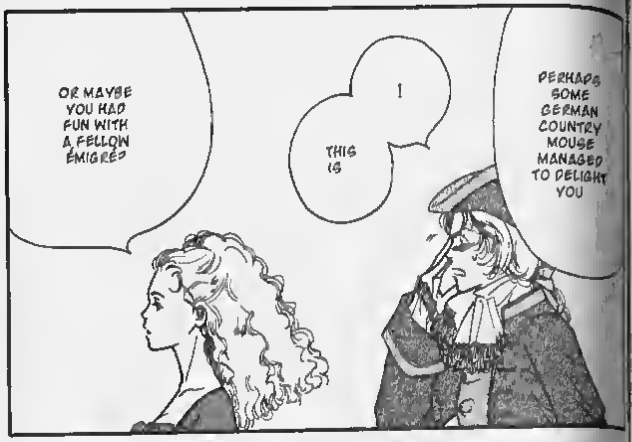
WHAT DID YOU NOT LIKE ABOUT THE LOVELY YOUNG LADY?
AND?

WHICH MEANS EVERYTHING ABOUT HER IS SIMILAR TO HIM
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL, JUST LIKE ME. BUT INSIDE SHE'S A DEVIL
HER PERSONALITY! HER CHARACTER!

I HEARD YOU CAME FROM PARIS.

OH, MY YOU TWO SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG
YOU... YOU LITTLE COUNTRY MOUSE!!
YES INDEED!
I'M IMPRESSED AS TO BE EXPECTED FROM A GUEST FROM FRANCE, HIS STORIES ARE QUITE ENTERTAINING!
BUT YOU MUST RECALL THAT THE QUEEN WAS SOMEONE WHO EVEN LAUGHED AT THE KING'S TERRIBLE PUNS
HERE WE JUST RECEIVED SOME FINE WHITE WINE
THAT CHEEKY LITTLE WENCH!! SHE MOCKED ME, WHOSE ESPRIT EVEN IMPRESSED THE QUEEN IN COURT!
...
Hates women
TO BE SPECIFIC, FROM VERSAILLES
がちゃーん!
GEE.
FOR AN EMIGRÉ FROM THE HOME OF ESPRIT, YOU ARE A PARTICULARLY BORING YOUNG NOBLEMAN.

THIS GERMAN WINE DOESN'T SUIT MY TASTES. I LONG FOR CHÂTEAU MOUTON!
AND THIS MANSION IS SO SMALL EVEN THE STABLES AT OUR OLD MANSION WERE BIGGER!
HMPH!!
FEED IT TO ME!
AND AS FOR WHITE WINE, I FIND THE GERMAN ONES TO BE FAR SUPERIOR
IT'S ONLY THE TWO OF US-- THIS SUITS US JUST FINE.
HERE HAVE SOME CHEESE FOR DESSERT
AH.
SLASH

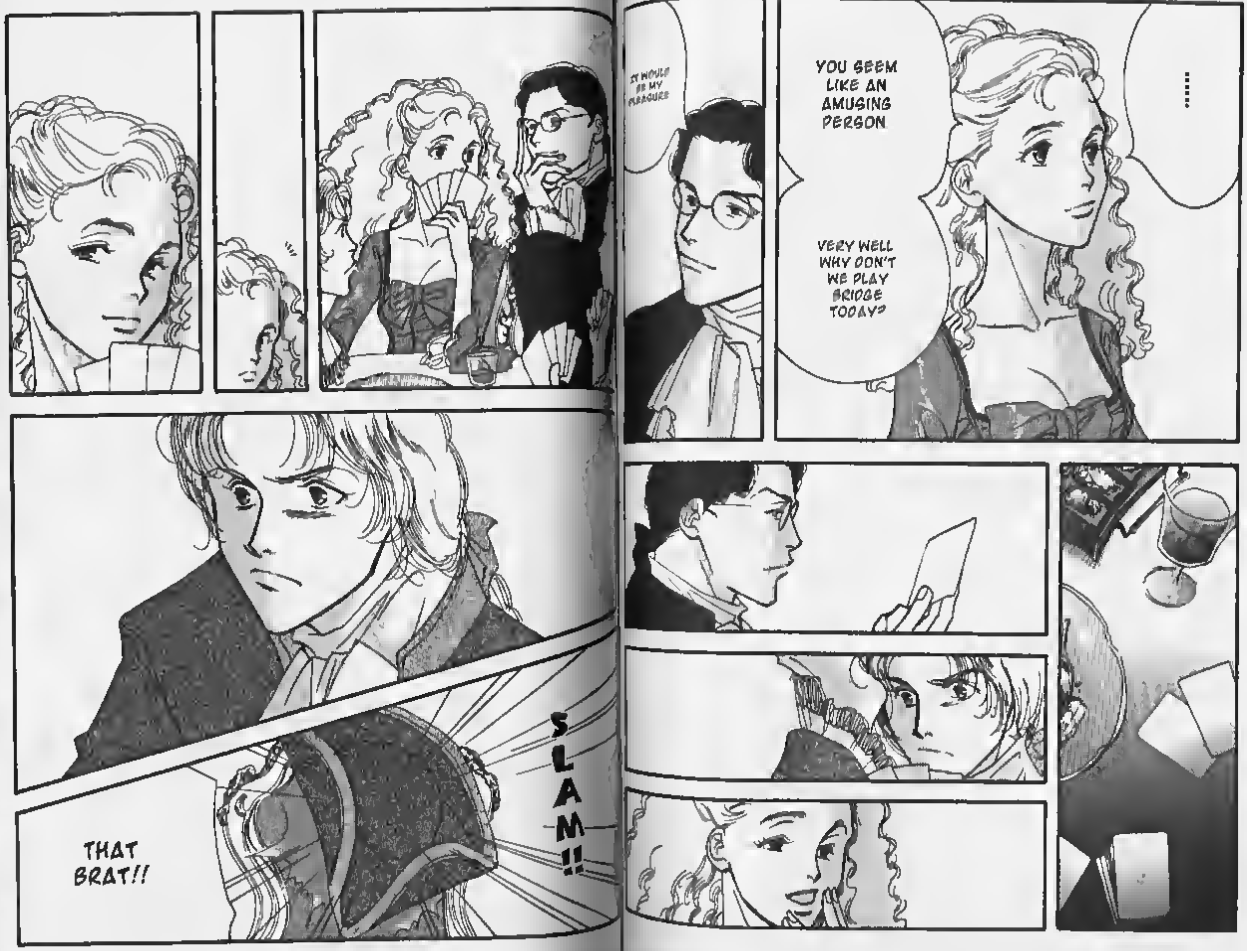

OR MAYBE YOU HAD FUN WITH A FELLOW ÉMIGRÉ?
THIS IS
PERHAPS SOME GERMAN COUNTRY MOUSE MANAGED TO DELIGHT YOU

NICE TO MEET YOU. MY NAME IS CLAUDE GUILBERT, THE BUTLER.
SEE? THE PROOF IS THAT MY EYES ARE RED TOO, AREN'T THEY?

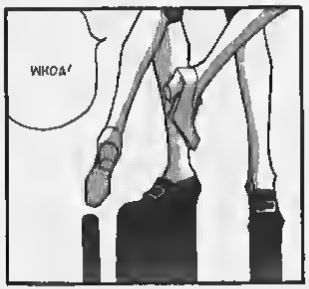
IT IS NEITHER, MADEMOISELLE
MASTER AND I WERE PLAYING CARDS ALL NIGHT WE HEARD BRIDGE IS POPULAR HERE

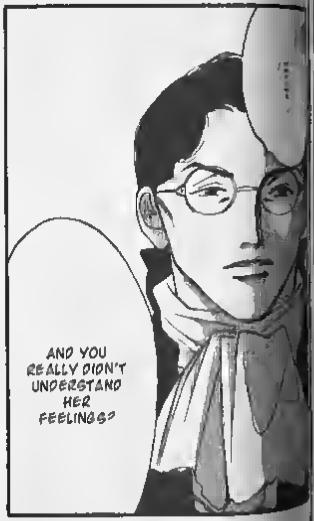
CLAUDE.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE BRATTY.
FOR WHAT HAPPENS BEHIND YOUR BED CURTAINS TONIGHT
I WON'T BE RESPONSIBLE
AH.
NNN...

YOUR EYES ARE RED


IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE
YOU SEEM LIKE AN AMUSING PERSON
.....
VERY WELL WHY DON'T WE PLAY BRIDGE TODAY?
THAT BRAT!!
SLAM!!

AGE DOESN'T MATTER! THE WAY SHE LOOKED AT ME WAS THAT OF A FULLY-GROWN WOMAN!!
THIS IS RIDICULOUS
HERE YOU ARE, ALREADY 21, AND YOU'RE LETTING A 14-YEAR-OLD GIRL GET THE BETTER OF YOU?


WHOA!


AND YOU REALLY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HER FEELINGS?

AND YOU, TOO! WHY DID YOU KEEP TALKING TO HER?!
BECAUSE SHE KEPT TALKING TO ME

I'M NOT UPSET ABOUT THAT!!
PLEASE DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON INANIMATE OBJECTS JUST BECAUSE YOU LOST AT BRIDGE THIS WAS MADE IN FLANDERS AND WAS VERY EXPENSIVE
WHEN WE WERE LEAVING THAT GIRL SAID, "PLEASE COME BACK TOMORROW, AND MAKE SURE TO BRING CLAUDE!!"

AND YOU!! DON'T EVER SPEAK TO THAT GIRL AGAIN!!
THEN I'LL NEVER GO BACK TO MY AUNT'S PLACE!!
BUT WHEN WE ARE INVITED TO YOUR AUNT THE COUNTESS' MANSION, WE WILL SURELY SEE HER AGAIN.

...I'M NEVER GOING TO GO SEE HER AGAIN

HEY!
CLAUDE!
PUT ME DOWN PUT ME DOWN!
WHICH MEANS YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS GOING THROUGH MY MIND, EITHER

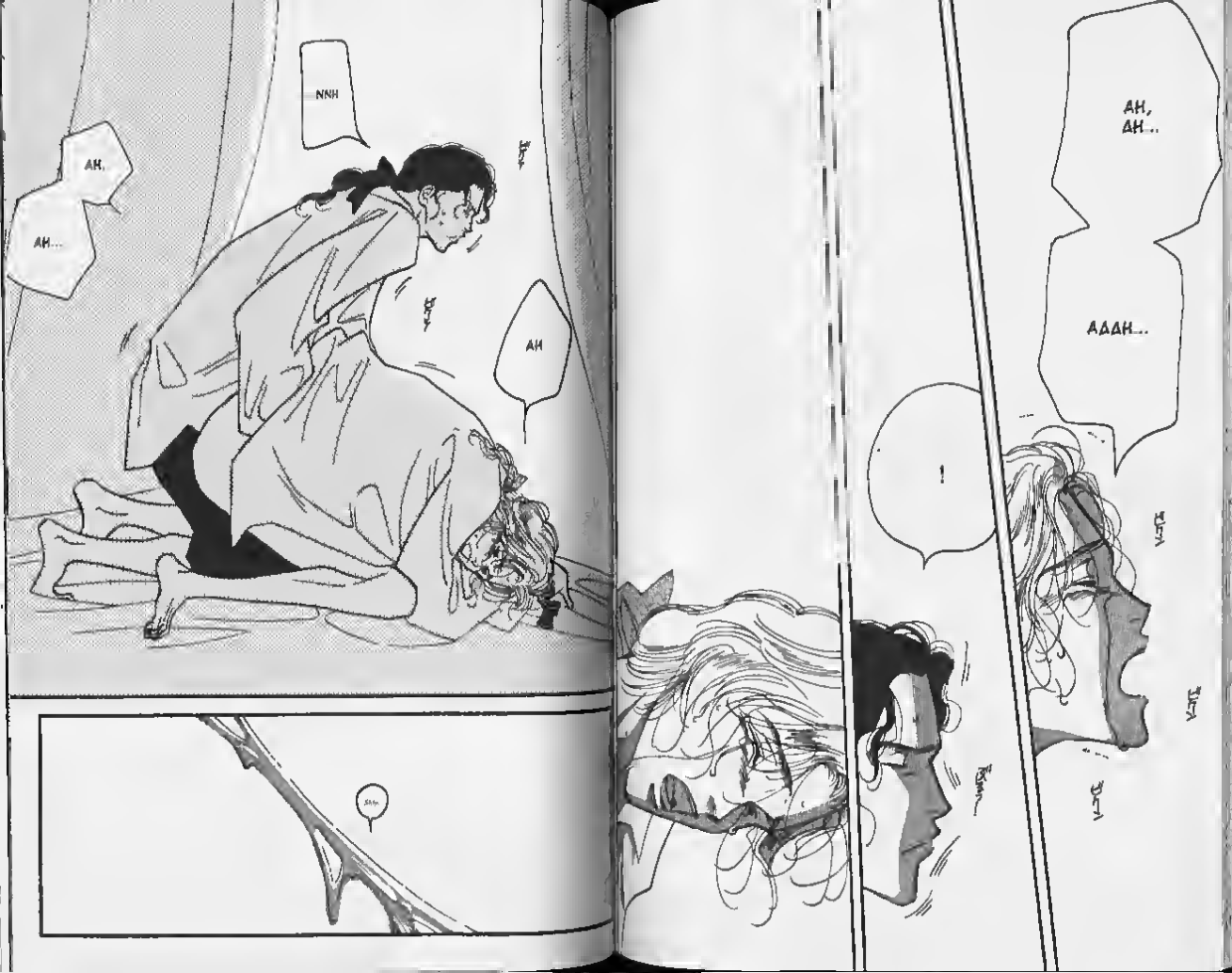
AH!
AH!
I'M GOING TO COME.
AH!

COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY ANGRY?
.....
I'M IMPREGGED! YOU CAN AT LEAST UNDERSTAND THAT MUCH.
OH!

LET GO...
AAH!
AH !!
OH, I CAN'T I'M GOING TO
AH...
OOOOH'
NNGH'
AH, AH, AH
NM...
USUALLY YOU'RE NOT THIS, AAH!
AH! AAH!
SAY WHAT YOU LIKE
AH... I'M GOING TO GO CRAZY...
DAMN IT, YOU PERVERTED OLD MAN! HOW LONG ARE YOU...!

I WAS WRONG I'LL APOLOGIZE
I'LL APOLOGIZE, SO
FORGIVE ME
CLAUDE
PLEASE FINISH IT...

SIR, YOU'VE BEEN WORKING UNDER A MISCONCEPTION
JEALOUSY AND SELFISHNESS ARE NOT TRAITS EXCLUSIVE TO YOU
AH—
AH! I'M COMING! I'M COMING !!


NNH
AH,
AH...
AH
AH...
AHHH...
!

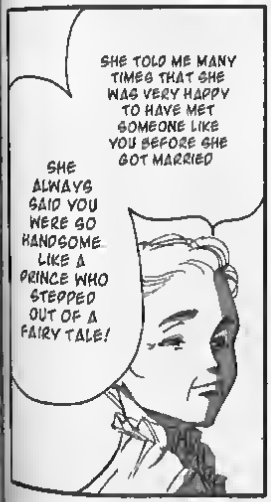
AH...!!

HERE, HOW'S THIS?
DAMN IT.
DAMN IT. YOU'RE ONLY A SERVANT... YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS AH...AH.
OH, NO... NOT THERE... AH...
NO...!!

I AM NOT GOING
I DON'T LIKE TO SEE YOU GETTING ALL CHUMMY WITH THAT GIRL, BUT I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE!
Clean shirt
YEAH.
YOU WILL GO TO YOUR AUNT'S MANSION TOMORROW, RIGHT?
I'M SO SORRY, ANTOINE. SHE COULDN'T COME TODAY
HUH?
THERE IS NO REASON FOR ME TO GO. ANYWAY, JUST VISIT THEM BY YOURSELF.

HER FIANCÉ WILL BE 49 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR. THIS IS HIS SECOND MARRIAGE.
I KNEW I WAS BEAUTIFUL ENOUGH TO DIE FOR...

SHE IS GOING TO MARRY NEXT MONTH AND MOVE TO THE MANOR, SO SHE WON'T BE COMING HERE ANYMORE
HER FIANCÉ RETURNED EARLIER THAN EXPECTED.


SHE TOLD ME MANY TIMES THAT SHE WAS VERY HAPPY TO HAVE MET SOMEONE LIKE YOU BEFORE SHE GOT MARRIED
SHE ALWAYS SAID YOU WERE SO HANDSOME... LIKE A PRINCE WHO STEPPED OUT OF A FAIRY TALE!

I'M SURE SHE DIDN'T. ANYONE WOULD WANT TO APPEAR SINGLE IN FRONT OF THE PERSON THEY ADMIRE.
SHE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT TO ME

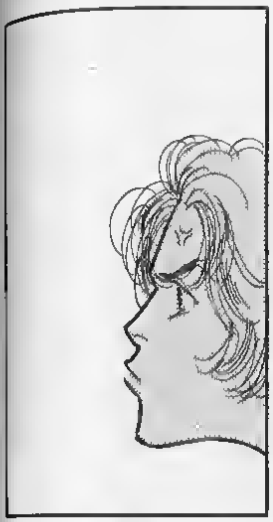
OF COURSE I WAS.
.....
WAIT...
YOU WEREN'T JEALOUS, WERE YOU?
YOUR PREFERENCE WAS SO FAMOUS IN COURT THAT NO LADY CAME NEAR YOU.
.. BUT I'D FORGOTTEN THAT IT WORKS ON WOMEN, TOO.
THE YOUNG LADY WAS USING ME TO GET YOUR ATTENTION, YOUNG MASTER.
HOW DID YOU NOT KNOW?
HOW DID YOU KNOW SHE HAD A THING FOR ME?

One Snowy Night

Lovers in the Night

IT'S BEEN SNOWING FOR A WEEK
ARGH, DAMN IT. I'M SICK OF CHESS AND CARDS!!
HOW ABOUT A BOOK, SIR?
HEY.
HMM. EVEN WHEN HE'S BORED TO DEATH, I STILL CAN'T GET HIM TO READ
IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE AN INSULT?

YOUNG MASTER, I HAVE AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE
THIS IS INCREDIBLE
IT'S BEEN AT LEAST TEN DAYS SINCE I WENT OUTSIDE IT'S LIKE SIBERIA NOT THAT I'VE EVER BEEN
ビュウウウ
WHAT IS IT?



COME ON, CLAUDE
WHO CARES IF IT'S NOT NIGHTTIME YET..
IT'S SNOWING OUTSIDE ANYWAY
YOUNG MASTER, I DON'T HAVE THE FREE TIME YOU DO I STILL NEED TO PREPARE DINNER

...
YOUNG MASTER--
WE CAN SURVIVE WITHOUT FOOD FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS THE SNOW HAS TO STOP AT SOME POINT.
I HAVE TO ASK--HAVE YOU EVER ACTUALLY GONE HUNGRY?

WE'VE RUN OUT OF FOOD.

SO?

ガチャ!!
YOU MADE ALL THE THINGS I HATE I CAN'T EAT THIS!!
WHAT IS THIS?! MARINATED HERRING AND CARROT POTAGE?!
AAAH.

NO.
I'VE NEVER BEEN HUNGRY IN MY LIFE.
HOW IS IT, YOUNG MASTER? THIS FEELING YOU'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE?

IT IS AN APPROPRIATE EXPRESSION, BUT IT'S ONLY BEEN A SINGLE DAY SINCE YOUR LAST MEAL
I'M SO HUNGRY I COULD DIE...
YOUNG MASTER...
THERE IS SOME WINE SHOULD I BRING IT?
I'VE HEARD THAT WHEN YOU GET HUNGRY, YOU GET THE CHILLS...
AND I'M GETTING CHILLS
IT'S REALLY COLD WE'VE RUN OUT OF FIREWOOD FOR THE FIREPLACE
SO ONCE YOU DRINK THAT, PLEASE REST FOR TONIGHT
I'LL BRING ONE MORE BOTTLE OF WINE
IT'S THE LAST ONE I BURNED A CHAIR TO MAKE IT
CHOCOLATE? WHERE DID...
HERE YOU GO

SPLASH!!!
I DON'T CARE FOR SWEET THINGS.
YOU DRINK IT.
I DON'T NEED THIS.
YOU DRINK THIS OR ELSE I'LL THROW IT ON THE FLOOR
HOW MANY DAYS HAVE YOU GONE WITHOUT EATING?
I CAN'T EVEN BE BOTHERED TO STAND UP...
THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD HAVE DRUNK THE CHOCOLATE.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO WALK, I CAN CARRY YOU TO YOUR BEDROOM.
NO.

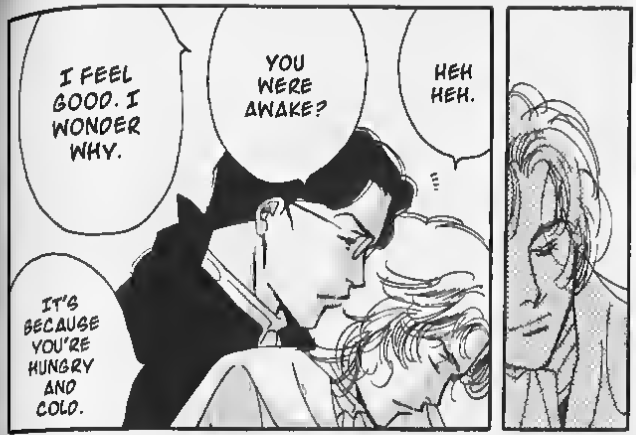
KISS ME...

I'M COLD...
HEY.
I'M COLD ...

LET'S STAY HERE LIKE THIS.
YEAH.
I DON'T WANT TO GO ANYWHERE I'M STAYING HERE
HEY..
YES.
YES.

Rattle
Rattle
Rattle
YEAH...

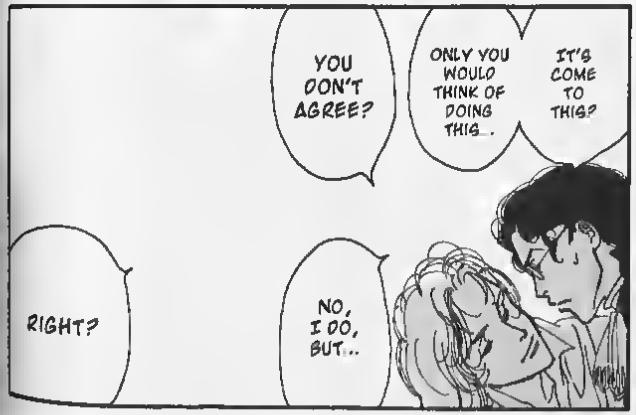
...WERE YOU HAPPY?
YES.
BUT...
...I'M MUCH HAPPIER NOW.


I FEEL GOOD. I WONDER WHY.
YOU WERE AWAKE?
HEH HEH.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE HUNGRY AND COLD.

LIKE A FAMILY THAT LOVED EACH OTHER
MY FAMILY WASN'T CLOSE AT ALL, BUT ON COLD NIGHTS LIKE THIS WE WOULD HUDDLE TOGETHER TO GIT THROUGH THE NIGHT.

AND IF IT DOESN'T STOP SNOWING TOMORROW, THEN WE CAN STARVE TO DEATH TOGETHER.

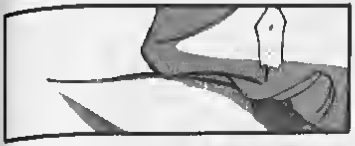
DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD FEEL SPLENDID TO MAKE LOVE ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS?
HEY.


YOU DON'T AGREE?
ONLY YOU WOULD THINK OF DOING THIS...
IT'S COME TO THIS?
RIGHT?
NO, I DO, BUT..

MORE.
MORE... CLAUDE.

AH... MORE, MORE...
HFF... HFF... HAAH...

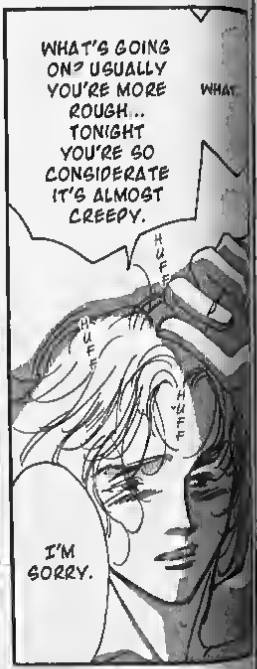
AH!



AH...!

.....

I APOLOGIZE.
I FAILED YOU AS A BUTLER BY LETTING YOU GO HUNGRY.


WHAT'S GOING ON? USUALLY YOU'RE MORE ROUGH.. TONIGHT YOU'RE SO CONSIDERATE IT'S ALMOST CREEPY.
WHAT.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
I'M SORRY.

Shik
Shik
Shik
Shik

ah..

AAAGH ...!!
MNN...
ヒィ!

ah..

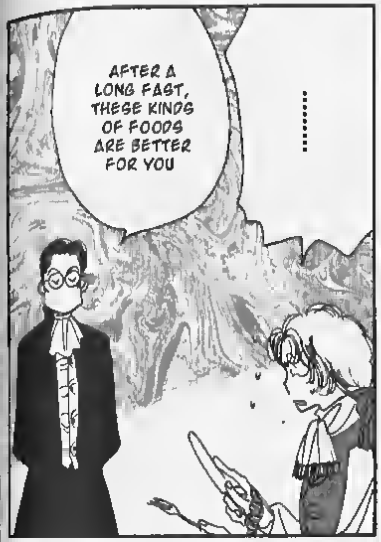
IF YOU REALLY FEEL THAT WAY, THEN WHY NOT MAKE IT UP TO ME BY BEING AS ROUGH AS EVER?

OF COURSE I DON'T USUALLY MAKE MISTAKES.
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU APOLOGIZE SO SINCERELY BEFORE.

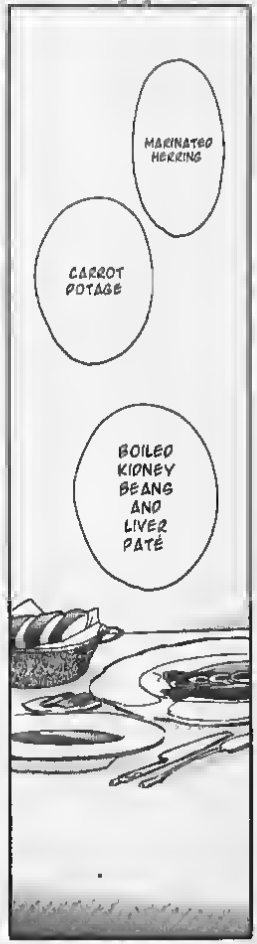
AH, CLAUDE. NO...AH, AH!
AH.
AH, I CAN'T DO THAT... AH, AAH, AH...!!
NNGH!! AH, AH, AH, AH, AH!!
AAH, AAAH. NO.
AAH. NO, NOOOO!!
AAAH!! AAAH!! AAAAAAHH
AH.
AH, AH!
AH, AH, AH!
MY PLEASURE, SIR

THE SNOW...
STOPPED?
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH

GOOD.
...I'LL EAT IT'


AFTER A LONG FAST, THESE KINDS OF FOODS ARE BETTER FOR YOU
.....

OR DO YOU PLAN TO THROW IT ON THE FLOOR AGAIN?


MARINATED HERRING
CARROT POTAGE
BOILED KIDNEY BEANS AND LIVER PATÉ

HOW IS IT?
IF YOU JUST GIVE IT A CHANCE, IT'S QUITE TASTY, ISN'T IT?
HMPH!
.....
PLEASE ENJOY YOUR DINNER
HMPH!!
THE YOUNG MASTER JUST LIKES TO BE PICKY

One Snowy Night/END

IF IT'S STILL AROUND, I WANT TO WEAR IT...
I WANTED TO WEAR IT TO AUNTIE'S NEW YEAR PARTY, BUT IT'S LONG GONE, ISN'T IT?
THE SILVER FOX COAT MY OLD MAN USED TO OWN
HEY, CLAUDE
NO, WE STILL HAVE IT.
YES.
NO, I HAVEN'T SOLD IT OFF
WE HAVE IT?! I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT YOU'D SOLD IT OFF OR SOMETHING!

Lord, I Give My Graciousness

PLEASE BE SURE TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT.
HA HA! THIS IS IT! THAT OLD MAN... IT'S BECAUSE HE BOUGHT SO MANY THINGS LIKE THIS THAT HE WOUND UP BANKRUPT.
NO.
YOU MEAN AS AN EMPLOYER, RIGHT? BECAUSE, REALLY...
...UH.
YOUR FATHER WAS THE FIRST PERSON I EVER FELL IN LOVE WITH.
I WILL NOT LIE TO YOU.
YOU SHOULDN'T CALL THE MASTER, YOUR LATE FATHER, "OLD MAN"!
AND...
I LOVED HIM.
HEY!
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU ABOUT THIS FOR A WHILE NOW. HOW DID YOU REALLY FEEL ABOUT YOUR "MASTER"?

...IT BOTHERS ME.
BUT..
IT BOTHERS ME!! I NEVER LOVED ANYONE BUT YOU!

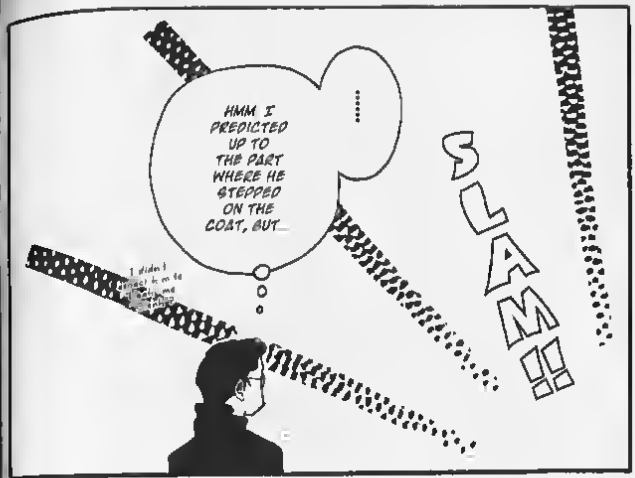
...HOW SHAMELESS!
YOUNG MASTER, PLEASE DON'T MISUNDERSTAND
Wait a minute
HOW FILTHY!! THEY CALL YOU "OYAKO DONBURI" IN ASIAN COUNTRIES, YOU KNOW!!
NOTE: OYAKO DONBURI IS A RICE DISH TOPPED WITH CHICKEN AND EGGS. BUT IN THIS CASE MEANS TO HAVE SLEPT WITH BOTH PARENT AND CHILD
NOTHING EVER HAPPENED BETWEEN US. I SWEAR TO GOD.

IF MY APOLOGY WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER, I WILL APOLOGIZE AS MANY TIMES AS YOU LIKE
ドアッ!!
BLEEEAH!

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE ..

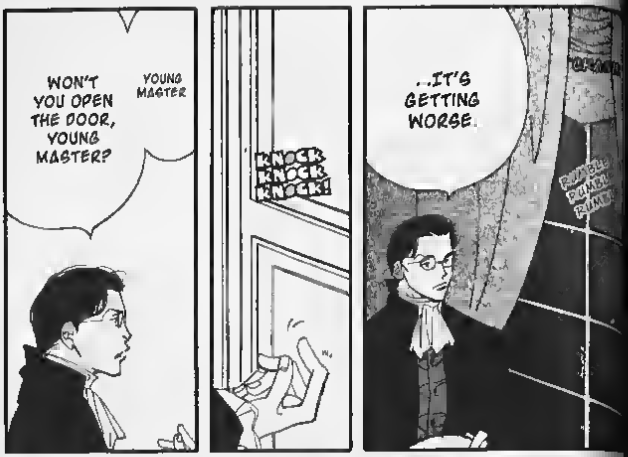
"I'M SCARED"
"CLAUDE, CLAUDE"

"I'M FIFTEEN, BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER. I'M SCARED OF WHAT I'M SCARED OF."
"YOU DO REALIZE HOW OLD YOU ARE NOW, DON'T YOU?"
"...I UNDERSTAND THAT EVER SINCE A LIGHTNING BOLT STRUCK A TREE RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES, YOU'VE BEEN AFRAID OF THUNDER, YOUNG MASTER...BUT."

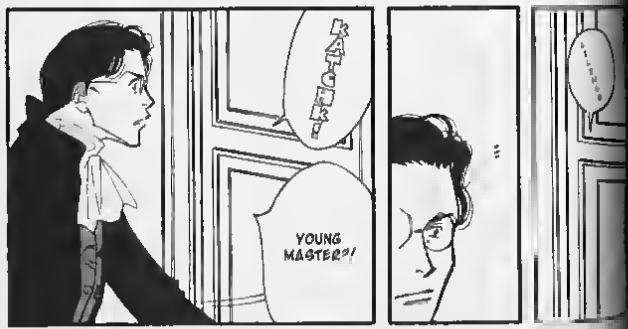

HMM I PREDICTED UP TO THE PART WHERE HE STEPPED ON THE COAT, BUT...
SLAM!!

POTATO POTATO POTATO!!
POTATO HEAD!
STUPID CLAUDE!

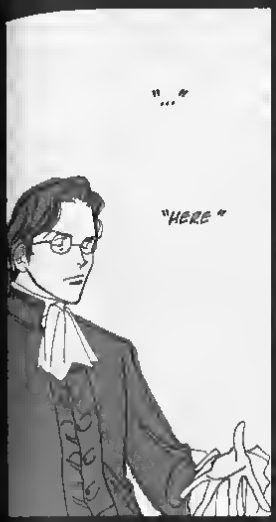
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE


WON'T YOU OPEN THE DOOR, YOUNG MASTER?
YOUNG MASTER
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK!
..IT'S GETTING WORSE.
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

PLEASE STOP BEING STUBBORN AND OPEN UP.
THE THUNDER IS GETTING WORSE.


KATCHI
YOUNG MASTER?!

FLASH!


"..."
"HERE"

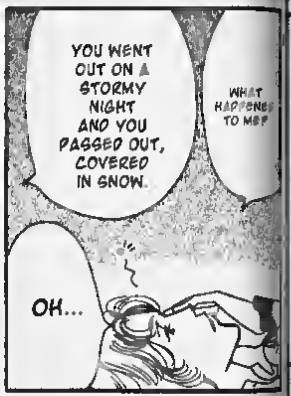
PLINK!
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

YOUNG MASTER!!
CLAUDE...!!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

FLASH
HE'S NOT HERE...!
THERE'S GOING TO BE A TERRIBLE TEMPEST
.....
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

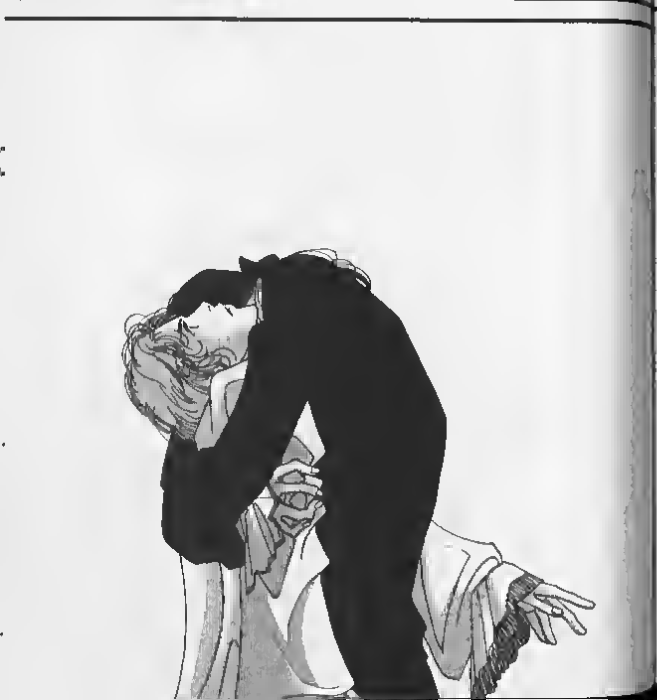
SNOW
SNOW
SNOW
SNOW
THE THUNDER IS GONE, BUT NOW THIS SNOW...
IF HE WENT HOME AND I MISSED HIM, THEN IT WOULD BE FINE, BUT...
THUD!!

FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS, YOU SKIRTED THE BRINK OF DEATH WITH A HIGH FEVER LIKE NOTHING IN THIS WORLD. THAT'S WHY.
I FEEL TERRIBLY WEAK. WHY IS THAT?
HMMM.



I APPARENTLY FAINTED OUT OF FEAR OF THE LIGHTNING.

...AND IF YOU HAD ACTUALLY GONE TO GOD, I WAS INTENDING TO DIE, TOO.



CLAUDE?
IF YOUR FEVER HADN'T GONE DOWN...

AH...

AH.

I DON'T CARE WHO HE LOVED BEFORE.

OH LORD, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO YOU...!

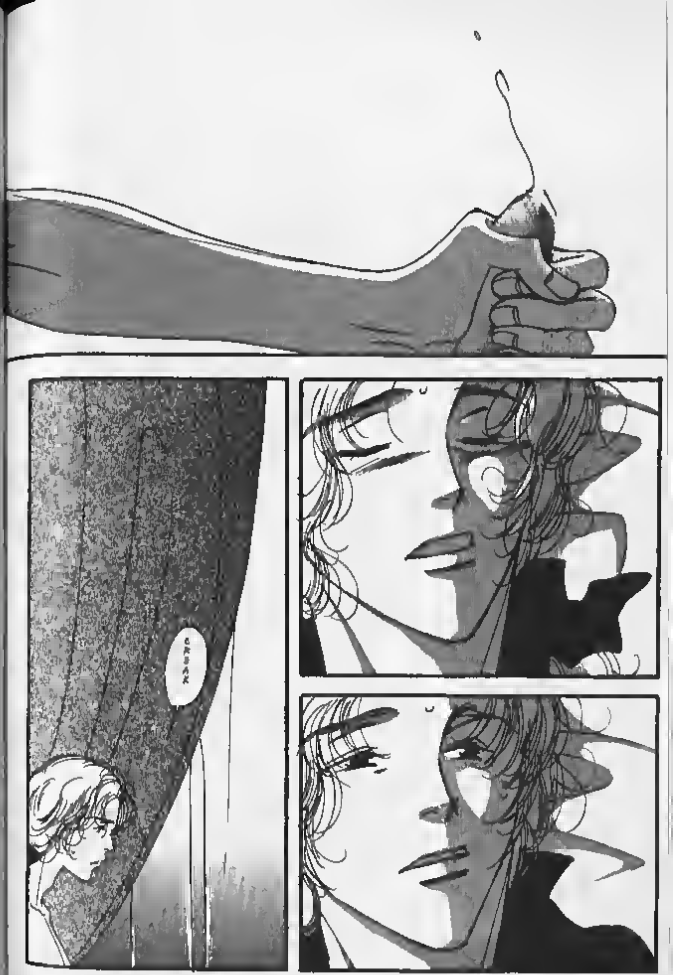
CLAUDE REFUSED TO MAKE LOVE TO ME BECAUSE I WAS STILL RECOVERING FROM AN ILLNESS. HE WENT TO SLEEP (PROBABLY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE DAYS) IN HIS ROOM.

OH LORD, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE...!

THE MAN HE LOVES NOW, WITH ALL HIS LIFE, IS ME AND ME ALONE.

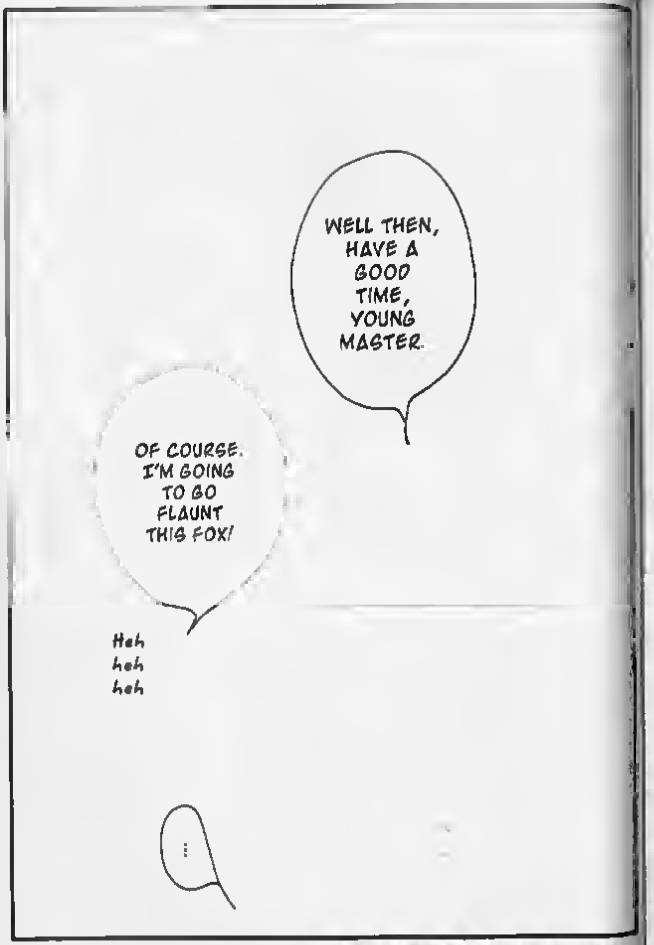
LORD...!
OH LORD, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE...!

I CAME HARD.



GET OVER IT IT LOOKS GOOD ON ME, DOESN'T IT?
I HAD AN AWFUL TIME REMOVING THE WRINKLES AND THE MARKS FROM YOUR SHOES, YOUNG MASTER
WELL, WELL.
MORE THAN YOUR FATHER
IT SUITS YOU VERY MUCH JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER.
YES.

I'M HEADING OUT.


WELL THEN, HAVE A GOOD TIME, YOUNG MASTER.
OF COURSE. I'M GOING TO GO FLAUNT THIS FOX!
Heh heh heh
...?

JUST LIKE MY FATHER IS ENOUGH.

YOU'RE RIGHT
.YES.

I FINALLY FOUND SUITABLE ANDOUILLE SAUSAGE AND WHITE WINE HERE. I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
HA! BY THE TIME THAT HAPPENS I'LL BE AN OLD FART.
I BELIEVE THEIR INTENSION IS TO REVIVE VERSAILLES TO ITS FORMER GLORY.
He only cares about food.
BESIDES, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? DON'T YOU SUPPORT THE REVOLUTION?
I STILL HAVE NO INTEREST
I'M FRANKLY SURPRISED TO HEAR THIS COMING OUT OF YOUR MOUTH, YOUNG MASTER. YOU HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE... I MEAN, NO INTEREST IN POLITICS
I HAVE NEVER SAID ANYTHING OF THE SORT.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO. I KNEW.

THERE ARE SOME AMONG THE ÉMIGRÉS WHO ATTEMPT TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE REVOLUTION.

ANY PLACE IS THE SAME TO ME AS LONG AS I HAVE YOU AND THE FOOD YOU PREPARE.

YOU MAKE IS SOUND LIKE I'M SOME BEAST! I JUST NEED BEAU AND GOURMET!
I SEE. SO AS LONG AS YOUR LUSTS FOR FOOD AND SEX ARE SATISFIED, YOU'RE CONTENT.
But "beast" is certainly applicable...
GARGH!

BUT I UNDERSTAND YOU.

AND IN THIS MANNER, SO LIVED ON OUR PAIR...

END

FUMI YOSHINAGA'S: LOVERS IN THE NIGHT
Created by Fumi Yoshinaga

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